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Madras Information

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Vol. I, No. 25 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" November 29, 1947

Editorial

Scheme for Firka Development

AS a result of the labours of a Committee of the Firka Development Board we have now a comprehensive over-all scheme for Firka Development work in Madras, formulated by a set of people who are actively connected with or engaged in that work. The principal objective of the scheme was to promote reconstruction work in certain selected firkas in the province, so as to bring about an all-round development of those areas, and in particular to make them self-sufficient in regard to the two essential requirements of cloth and food. When work has progressed to such an extent in these firkas, it is presumed that they will be transformed into model areas.

THE scheme provides for an over-all plan and also for local plans and the two are attempted to be harmonized, so that while initially in two firkas work will be proceeded with co-ordinatedly on all fronts, in the other 32 firkas only a few select items, which from the point of view of the local situation, are of special interest and importance to the people of that area, will be undertaken on an intensive scale, such as for example, construction of wells or improvement of communications.

AT the same time the scheme imparts an impetus to the work by providing a practical and definite basis for it. Thus a definite and clear-cut objective has been placed before the workers and side by side provision has been made for the training of those to whom the work is to be entrusted. If, thereforei it, is implemented on the lines proposed by the Committee, it should lead to some definite and appreciable results in the near future to the advantage of the people concerned.

TWO vital pre-requisites for the successful execution of a scheme like this are adequate funds and tried and devoted personnel, who have a living and undying faith in the potency of village reconstruction and a living and undying faith in the need and urgency for such reconstruction.

IT is generally conceded that the staff that are now in charge of the working of the Firka Scheme fulfil the first criterion mentioned with reference to the personnel. But enthusiasm and faith are one thing and practicalisation of that faith is a different thing and some of them would require the training in systematic and ordered work which is a pre-requisite for achieving results. The scheme now formulated provides for this training of developmental officers to undertake the responsibility that will devolve on them and also ensures a regular and continuous flow of workers in the cause. It also provides for effective and adequate supervision of their work to assess the progress made from time to time. The training scheme for workers is thus one of the central and vital features of the scheme.

EQUALLY central and vital is the selection of two centres, one in the Telugu area and the other in Tamil Nad, in which development on all fronts will be carried out with the object of transforming them into model firkas. All the items in the general plan of work will be introduced in these two firkas, which will be under the direct supervision of the two Regional Firka Development Officers. The training centres proposed will also be located in these firkas.

INCLUDED in the general development plan are five main items, agriculture and village industries, sanitation, health and housing, village education, village organization and village culture. Undoubtedly these comprehend the entire field of village reconstruction and when really substantial advance is made in them, it would be possible to consider that the objective of organizing the villages "for a happier, more prosperous and fuller life," is very nearly achieved. When

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such advance really occurs the lack of balance in village economy, which has become a predominant feature of the present day Indian village life, as a result of the process of disintegration proceeding for some decades of neglect, will have been eliminated in a large measure.

THE scheme makes due allowance for the development of the individual villager as an integral part of the development of the village as a whole. In the complicated set up of the present administration, when direction and control are centralized, the individual is inevitably neglected and since the decay of one part of the organism tends in course of time to the decay of the entire organism, we witness the result in the decaying villages of our countryside. The incentive for the individual, particularly if he happens to have b en educated and can earn a living elsewhere, to live in the village and contribute to its welfare and improvement has more or less disappeared. But to the extent that the Firka Development scheme proposes to deal with the individual villager with a view to render him a self-reliant, self-helping person it should ensure that the villages as a whole would become "self-sufficient, self-dependent" units. The present widely prevalent movement of "on to the towns" can be reversed and can be substituted by a reverse movement of "Back to the village" only when the educated villager's outlook is changed and when he finds that the village is a worthwhile place to go back to.

THE five items of work mentioned above may appear simple and easy of accomplishment; but actually they require an enormous amount of effort to be implemented. That is so because it involves a transformation of the lives and habits of the village population accustomed to particular habits of life and behaviour. This highly desirable result will have to be achieved partly by persuasion, partly by propaganda and education and partly and wherever necessary by the use of mild compulsion. It should be no surprise if the process proves a fairly protracted one because it necessitates on the one hand the education of the young along new lines, and on the other, the persuasion of the middle-aged to change their long-standing habits. Nevertheless we can depend on the robust commonsense of the average villager to realize the significance and beneficialness of what he is asked to do as part of the plan for his self-improvement and we will probably not depend on it in vain.

SIMILARLY with regard to other items of work, most of the village industries proposed to be rehabilitated and developed, for instance, are not new to the villages though some of them have unfortunately become the victims of decay in recent years. Their resuscitation will be possible firstly, by the village artisan, the village weaver and the village carpenter, etc., being prepared to remain in the village and contribute to the promotion of a self-sufficient village economy and secondly, by the proper training of future artisans and workers in these various industries. In other words, it will mean the revival of the latent and dormant skill of our village craftsmen and giving them the requisite encouragement and training so that their skill will be useful to subserve the circumstances and needs of the present. It is worth noting that the scheme provides for the supply of cheep electrical power for agricultural and village industries purposes under proper guidance. This recognition of the beneficial use to which a modern invention like electricity can be put for village reconstruction work is a guarantee for its success.

LASTLY, the schemes recognize and provide for propaganda among and education of the villagers about the aims and objects of the firka scheme and the part they have to play in working that scheme to its logical end. There is nothing like effectively and properly directed propaganda to facilitate attainment of the objectives we have in view. The results of propaganda mayappear slow in coming but they are bound to come in the long run. Posters, leaflets, pictures, radio talks and films are the various methods of undertaking this propaganda.

WE have now a scheme for rural development work; we have a scheme also for training the required personnel for carrying on that work; and we are assured of the requisite governmental help in putting it into execution. A combination of all these favourable factors should lead to worthwhile and noticeable results and it can on'y be hoped that they will be forthcoming.

A digest of Fress notes, Releases, etc.

Refugee relief

During the week ending 7th November five hundred and eighty-five refugees from North-West Frontier Province, West Punjab and Sind were received and accommodated in the camps. Thirty-seven of these refugees have left the camps and two of them di d in hospital. Two hundred and thirty-five South Indian refugees from Karachi arrived in Madras during the week.

Housing.—Out of the total of 585 refugees, 143 are from the Punjab, 6 from the North-West Frontier Province and 436 from Sind. Five hundred and eleven refugees are accommodated at the Lutterals Gardens Camp, 25 in the Holiday Home at Saidapet and 10 at the Malayan Emigration Depot at Avadi. The South Indian refugees were fed for the days they remained at Madras, and despatched to their destinations, after having been provided with railway tickets and pocket money at the rate of Rs. 2 per adult and Re. 1 for a child below 12 years. Clothes and sweets were also distributed to these refugees. [November 12

Telegraph Authority to Electrical Licensees

The Government of Madras have conferred, on the Chingleput Electric Supply Company, Limited and the Salem-Erode Electricity Distribution Company, Limited, the powers which the telegraph authority possesses under the Indian Telegraphs Act, 1885, in respect of the placing of telegraph lines and posts for the purposes of a telegraph established, or maintained by the Government. [November 12]

Exempted Varieties of Cloth

The Government have from 1st November 1947 relaxed the scheme of mill cloth rationing in the City of Madras with a view to enable the dealers to clear their stocks within a reasonably short time. It has been brought to the notice of Government that in districts also unpopular varieties of cloth are accumulating with dealers and that action similar to that taken in the City is necessary in the districts. The Government have therefore authorized the Collectors to exclude from the Rationing Scheme within specified areas of the district and for definite periods which may be specified by them

(1) all coarse and medium varieties of cloth (stamped by manufacturers as such) other than cloth made by Mettur Mills, and

(2) other varieties of cloth not covered by (1) which remain unsold with retailers for over six months and appear to be inferior and unpopular. [November 10]

Grow More Food Committee

The Government have appointed the Director of Information and Publicity as a member of the Provincial Committee for the Central Control of Grow More Food propaganda in the districts. [November 10]

Revenue and Expenditure

According to the Budget for 1947–48 the revenue receipts amount to Rs. 49,73 38 lakhs. Revenue accounts to the end of July 1947 stand at Rs. 13,27·91 lakhs as against Rs. 13,90·64 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1946.

The expenditure on Revenue Account to the end of July 1947 totals +Rs. 12,06·76 lakhs as against Rs. 11,70·17 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1946.

The total revenue realized to the end of July 1947 shows a decrease of Rs. 62·73 lakhs, as compared with the revenue realized for the corresponding period of 1946–47. The decrease is the net effect of decreases totalling Rs. 1,57·99 lakhs and increases totalling Rs. 95·26 lakhs.

The decrease in revenue related, among other items, to Provincial Excise, Stamps, Irrigation, Police, Stationery and Printing and Civil Defence. The increase was with reference to items such as Land Revenue, Forest, Administration of Justice, Education and Industries.

[November 13]

Revision of Electoral Roll

In Press Communiqué No. 48, dated 29th October 1947, a special revision of the electoral rolls for the General, Muslim, Indian Christian and Anglo-Indian Constituencies of the Madras Legislative Assembly relating to the Madras City was announced and the 15th November 1947 was fixed as the "prescribed date" by reference to which the rolls should be revised. Representations have since been received by Government that the time for the presentation of applications for enrolment where a prior application is necessary is not sufficient and that the time-limit may be extended up to the end of November. The Government have therefore decided that the 1st December 1947 shall be the "prescribed date" by reference to which the rolls should be revised instead of the 15th November 1947. The dates for the several stages of the revision of the electoral rolls of the Madras City already announced have not been altered.

The public are reminded that the 1st December 1947 is now the last date for the receipt of applications for enrolment where a prior application is necessary—e.g., applications from literates—and this date will not be postponed further. They are therefore requested to see that persons eligible for enrolment only on application present their applications on or before the 1st December 1947. The Government hope that the opportunity now offered to them will be utilized by the public to the fullest extent and that large numbers of qualified persons will enrole themselves as voters. [November 13]

Export of Jaggery

The Government have received several representations particularly from the districts of Chittoor and Vizagapatam that large quantities of jaggery are awaiting movement to other provinces in accordance with the quotas allotted by the Gur Controller of India for the year 1946–47.

The Government have, therefore, decided to direct the issue, as a very special case, of self-permits to actual stockists in the districts of Vizagapatam, Chittoor, South Arcot, North Arcot, Bellary and East Godavari, where the accumulated stocks are awaiting movement. The permits will be valid only for one month from the date of issue and no permits will be issued after 30th November 1947.

[November 13]

Scholarships for R.I.N. Candidates

The Government of Madras have been annually awarding a scholarship of the value of £260 from the year 1946 to the Madras candidate standing highest in the list of successful candidates in the open competitive Royal Indian Navy Examination conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission each year and selected for training for entry into the Commissioned ranks of the Royal Indian Navy in order to enable him to meet the expenses of his training in the United Kingdom. The Government have now decided to institute two scholarships of the value of £116 instead of one scholarship of the value of £260 from the year 1947 onwards to be awarded annually to the two Madras candidates standing highest at the first two open competitive Royal Indian Navy Examinations held each year.

[November 14]

Change of name

In view of the varied Social Welfare Work among women that is carried on by the I.W.C.C. and in view of the additional work in a wider field that the Corps will shortly take up, the Government consider that the present name of the organization, viz., I.W.C.C. requires change. The I.W.C.C. will be known in future as the "Department of Women's Welfare".

[November 17]

Portraits of National Leaders

The Government have permitted the portraits of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Subash Chandra Bose and Moulana Abul Kalam Azad being displayed in educational institutions.

[November 13]

Control of Potato movement—Lifted

The Government have decided to remove the control over the movement of potatoes to places in India outside the Madras Province. There is at present no ban on the movement of potatoes within the Province or to places in India outside the Province.

[November 19]

Weavers' Co-operative societies —Government Instructions

Weavers on joining the co-operative societies are given 20 per cent extra yarn. The master weaver should not refuse to return the ration cards of weavers working under them when the weavers intend to join the co-operative societies whether or not they have cleared their dues to the master weavers.

2. The Government cannot compel the weavers to pay off their dues to the master weavers before the weavers join the co-operative societies.

3. Master weavers are producers as well as dealers.

4. The distinction between an "independent weaver" and "a weaver under a master weaver" lies in that an "independent weaver" is one who has a loom of his own, sells the cloth on his own account and enjoys the profit, whereas the latter may either be a dependent weaver or a coolie weaver, a dependent weaver being one who has a loom of his own but elects to work under a master weaver, and a coolie weaver is a professional weaver with no loom of his own, but works under a master weaver on a loom belonging to his employer.

5. A weaver owning more than one loom cannot work a portion of his looms for the society and operate on the rest either as an independent weaver or under a master weaver. On becoming a member of a co-operative society he should draw his yarn for all the looms owned by him only through the society.

Informal rationing of pulses—Abolition

In pursuance of the decision of the Government of India to decontrol all pulses except bengalgram, the Madras Government have decided to cancel all the orders issued by them relating to purchase, movement, distribution and prices in respect of all pulses including horsegram but excepting bengalgram and kesarigram and their products. The control orders cease to be in force with effect from the date of the publication of the cancellation notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

The Government, however, propose to abolish the informal rationing of all pulses except bengalgram and its products in Madras City with effect from 1st December 1947, so as to enable all the card holders to draw their pulses rations for November 1947.

[November 18]

Government warn Textile Mills against closure

The Government constituted an Industrial Tribunal in April 1947 to enquire into the conditions of labour in the textile mills of the Province. The Tribunal gave an award in June 1947, which was accepted by Government and made binding on the parties for a period of one year from 1st April 1947. It has since been brought to the notice of Government that while many managements of textile mills implemented the award, the managements of some textile mills pleaded inability to pay wages as in the award and closed down the mills. Under Section 23 (*c*) and 24 (i) of the Industrial Disputes Act, a lock-out during any period in which an award is in operation is illegal and under section 26 (2) it is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both.

It will therefore be seen that the closure of mills on account of alleged inability to implement the award of an Industrial Tribunal which is in force infringes the law and that the managements are liable for prosecution. The Government wish to make it clear that they will not hesitate to take action against the mills that have already closed or propose closure. The managements of those mills which are already closed are therefore advised to reopen their mills immediately and those which propose to close their mills will do well not to close them.

[November 20]

DO YOU KNOW

that Vitamin A promotes resistance to disease and Vitamin D builds up body;

that Vitamin A is produced by the sunlight acting on plants;

that fish living on marine plants store Vitamins A and D in their liver;

that Shark living on fish provide a more potent source of Vitamins A and D;

that the Coimbatore Malt Factory presents these Vitamins in their most palatable form.

THE MALT EXTRACT OF SHARK OIL IS A MADRAS GOVERNMENT PRODUCT

Available at the Depots of the Agricultural Department

PRICE PER BOTTLE (One Pound) **Rs. 4.**

IT IS WORTH MUCH MORE
IN HEALTH TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

(Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Madras.)

Topical Notes

PROHIBITION

The need for propaganda for prohibition can hardly be over-estimated. In fact, as has been observed by more than one writer, prohibition cannot succeed unless backed by active propaganda designed to educate the people in its implications. Prohibition is a social reform and in a conservative country like India social reform to be successful has to be followed up with persistent educative propaganda. The general tendency is to make much of the loss of revenue due to prohibition ignoring the incalculable economic and moral benefits arising from it.

In this connection we may refer to the broadcast from the AIR, Mardas on prohibition of Sri A. Palaniappan, Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition. In the course of his talk he observed "India has now gained political Independence. To attain freedom from want and to raise the standard of living of the masses, which is the next main objective, prohibition is an essential step. For, it eliminates unproductive expenditure and helps to conserve one's savings for being utilized for the purchase of the necessaries of life and for improving one's economic condition. The drink money which forms the bulk of the earnings of a day will be utilized for getting better food, clothing, etc. The drinking habit has proved to be one of the main causes of indebtedness of the poorer classes in general and the industrial workers in particular and prohibition will tend to prevent this. The chief wealth of a nation is its man-power—better manhood and better womanhood. With the introduction of prohibition the physical efficiency of the people will improve resulting in the development of a healthy nation. Domestic happiness, the most obvious blessing will be restored. Happiness at home and social harmony in the towns and villages will be achieved. Crime and litigation and senseless quarrels will disappear. Prohibition is, therefore, a god-send for the people. As an important step in the social, moral and economic advancement of the community as a whole, it is welcomed by all—irrespective of caste, creed or party."

Ameliorative activities

As regards the ameliorative activities of the Government, the Deputy Commissioner said "I shall briefly refer to the lines on which ameliorative work is carried on in the prohibition districts. First, Government have sanctioned the opening of refreshment stalls subsidized by Government, where ex-addicts are served with harmless drinks like coffee, tea, panagam, butter-milk, etc., with some eats either free or at concessional rates during the first few weeks so as to help them in the change over from drink to abstinence. For the new eight prohibition districts, 1,900 such stalls have been sanctioned and arrangements have been made for their establishment. Secondly, the most effective counter-attraction to drink is rural sports and games, folk dances, kathaprasangams, kalakshepams, street dramas, etc. Entertainments of various kinds are organized to divert the mind of the ex-addicts. The most popular games are Chadu-gudu, Pillayar panthu, killithattu, tug-of-war, bhajanas, harikathas, street dramas, folk dances and they are organized in all the villages. Dramas by amateurs as well as professionals are encouraged to provide entertainments to the ex-addicts. With a view to encourage local talent in preference to professionals from outside, Government have sanctioned subsidies to deserving local dramatic troupes for staging dramas in the prohibition districts. For the organization of rural games and entertainments on a district-wide basis in all the villages, Government have sanctioned Rural Recreation Officers one for each taluk and ballad singers at the rate of one for each revenue division. Government have provided for each district a propaganda van equipped with cinema outfit, public address system, a gramophone to carry on propaganda and also to entertain the villagers. These vans are supplied with some gramophone records and films. Local boards, public bodies and co-operative organizations are concouraged to install community radio receiving sets. Provision of rural recreation on a district-wide basis is carried on with the double object not only of providing counter-attraction to the ex-addicts but also of giving a fillip to the rural recreation movement as part of the rural uplift programme and make the villages live-centres of activity. Gramasanghams or village betterment committees are formed to promote rural uplift work. In addition to organizing rural recreation in the villages, these sanghams undertake rural uplift activities like provision of protected water-supply, village communications, village sanitation, adult education, introduction of thrift, fostering of cottage industries, etc. These sanghams do not depend upon any outside or Government help but organize the various welfare activities on a self-help basis tapping local resources. Government have, however, agreed with a view to encourage these gramasanghams and emulate them to undertake these activities to help such of the sanghams that come forward with specific schemes on a self-help basis, with such financial or other assistance to the extent necessary on the merits of each case.

Economic Improvement

Prohibition is but a means to an end which is the uplift of the villagers. Simultaneously with the introduction of prohibition, thrift campaign is launched through co-operative societies and small savings scheme. Rural housing schemes have been formulated for being worked out by select weavers' co-operative societies in the prohibition districts. To improve the economic condition of the ex-tappers and ex-addicts, co-operative societies are organized for encouraging various types of cottage industries such as dairying, khadi spinning and weaving, coir industry, manufacture of leather goods, basket-making, etc. Government are also taking steps to provide employment to ex-tappers thrown out of work on account of prohibition. Societies for the manufacture of jaggery from palmyra sweet juice have been started in the districts of Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore. Government have recently permitted the starting of similar societies in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara and a few such have already been formed. Wherever facilities exist, the ex-tappers are settled on land by forming Co-operative Land Colonization Societies. Other schemes to absorb the ex-tappers in cottage industries suited to local conditions are also being explored."

An appeal

In conclusion, he observed, "I have outlined, in brief, the various measures launched by Government for the uplift of the masses in the prohibition districts, Before I conclude my talk this evening, I have just to make a very earnest appeal to you all. *Co-operaie* in making prohibition a *success* and to build up a more healthy and prosperous society of men and women of the land. We are crusaders in a noble cause and as the distinguished

poet of Namakkal has observed, all those who are doing service in the cause of Prohibition will be doing service to humanity and service to God. May the Almighty give us sufficient strength to carry us on in this noble task of building up a fine manhood and womanhood in this great land of *ours* ?

* * *

THE NEW 40 CRORES LOAN OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

An interesting feature of the new 15-year loan for Rs. 40 crores which the Government of India has floated is the rate of interest that it carries, $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. This is a departure from the previous "$2\frac{1}{4}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cents," and is taken in informed circles to indicate no further cheapening of interest rates. The new rate follows the Finance Minister's recent statement in Bombay that he was "frankly satisfied with the interest level in the country" and that "attempts will be made to stabilize it". It would seem that the cheap money policy having achieved its objectives, the Government is seeking to consolidate the gains already secured.

The Loan, the first issue since India assumed her independent status in the comity of nations, provides a unique opportunity for the investing public to identify themselves with the Government both in the task of nation building and in countering inflationary trends; and the discerning public welcome this move.

With its financial credit unimpaired in spite of the unforeseen developments of the past few months, the Government no doubt feel that the people would welcome the implied invitation to become associated with their representatives in the financing of schemes vital to the country's rehabilitation and development.

This Loan also affords facilities to the holders of the shortly-maturing $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent (1947–50) issue to re-invest their money. But the choice is entirely the investors', because obviously the Government is well placed to honour all commitments arising from the decision to repay on November 15 the outstanding balance of the short-time issue.

* * *

CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

In an article under the above caption a writer in "Silpi" has analysed the progress of Cottage Industries in the recent past. He says "the number of co-operative societies for weavers who constitute the largest single artisan group in the country grew from 1 in 1905 to 21 in 1919–20, 52 in 1927, 174 in 1939–40 and 215 in 1942 and 336 in 1946. Almost all these societies deal in mill-yarn products. Khaddar is still run almost on capitalistic lines; for in 1939–40 there were only 5 spinners' societies, 3 weavers' societies and 2 sale societies for Khaddar. The number of co-operative milk supply societies and dairies rose from 12 in 1927 to 121 in 1940–41. The following figures show the number of and the business done by cottage industries societies in 1940–41 in the Madras Province :—

	Number of Societies.	*Business done.*
		RS.
Milk Supply Societies.	104	6,44,129
Milk Unions ..	17	6,88,650
Weavers' Societies.	194	14,06,000
Madras Hand Loom Weavers' Society.	1	25,31,000
Egg Marketing Societies.	3	8,750
Hand pounded rice Societies.	2	4,045
Cottage Industries Societies exclusively for women.	21	Little work.
Other Cottage Industries Societies.	63	Do.
Fishermen's non-credit societies.	34	Do.

* * *

HYDERABAD-MADRAS BORDER

The Government of Madras is doing everything that is necessary to strengthen the police force on the Hyderabad-Madras border with a view to check frontier incidents and to inspire hope and confidence in the people of those areas and the 'refugees' from Hyderabad State. They have already announced that they are closely watching the situation which must be taken to mean all that is implied in the term 'watching.' That responsibility for preserving security and maintaining peace and order on the border and in fact throughout the Presidency, which devolves upon them is fully realized by the Government. It is not possible nor is it necessary to publicise everything that is being done by them in discharge of that responsibility. But it needs to be made plain that as a popular Government they are amply alive to the situation that is reported to be developing in parts of the province and are not mere passive spectators of the suffereings and inconveniences experienced by the people.

There is, however, an imperative need for abandoning the scare and panic which must, in the past, have influenced the migration of a number of refugees from Hyderabad to the Union territory and particularly to Kistna, Guntur and Kurnool districts, which are on the Hyderabad border. The danger of scare like this becoming contagious and developing into panic, which in its turn may become a rout and causing needless dislocation of normal life must however be guarded against. They can rest assured that the Government are doing everything possible not only to ensure safety and protection to the lives and properties of the people of the border areas but also to afford relief and assistance to the refugees from the state.

* * *

THE MADRAS PROVINCIAL WELFARE FUND

The public are aware of the purposes for which the Madras Provincial Welfare Fund was inaugurated some time ago. The field of Social Welfare in this Province as everywhere is vast and it is not possible for the Government alone to devote adequate attention to all aspects of social welfare work. Hence it is that we find social welfare organizations functioning everywhere side by side with the Government to promote common weal.

The Madras Provincial Welfare Fund is doing useful work in the social sphere in this Province. A special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Fund was held on 5th November when decisions were taken for promoting the activities envisaged by the fund. Each district has to collect funds and retain them within the district. These funds may be spent in the district, subject to certain conditions on any object within the scope of the Fund provided that previous sanction for any expenditure in any district has been obtained from the Executive Committee.

Not less than 5 per cent of the total collections in any district will have to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer at Madras. This amount can be spent by the Executive Committee for a cause within the scope of the Fund in any part of the Province where such expenditure is deemed necessary and is beyond the means of the part of the Province concerned.

In case any funds are collected for specified objects and the said objects are not approved subsequently by the Central Committee the collections made will have to be returned to the donors if so required.

(Continued on page 16)

Firka Development Plan

Details of the Report of the Sub-Committee

The public are aware that the Government have selected one firka in each district for intensive rural reconstruction work. A Provincial Board has also been constituted to co-ordinate and promote the developmental activities in the selected areas. This Board appointed some time ago a sub-committee (1) to draw up a detailed scheme for Firka Development work, (2) to draw up a detailed plan for the training of workers under the scheme and (3) to provide for the effective supervision and inspection of the work. The Sub-Committee consisted of five members and Sri G. Ramachandran was the Chairman. The committee has since sent in its report. This is divided into three main parts, the first dealing with the general plan of work, the second with schemes for training workers and the third with inspection and supervision. Extracts from the report are given below :—

The object is to organize the villages for a happier, more prosperous and fuller life in which the individual villager will have the opportunity to develop, both as an individual and as a unit of a well integrated society. This has to be done by using local initiative and local resources to the utmost extent possible in the economic, political and social fields of reconstruction on co-operative lines. Self-reliant, self-dependent and properly organized life in the villages will thus be the aim of Firka Development work. Such work should ultimately lead to the establishment of a just and democratic social order along peaceful lines. In Gandhiji's words such a new social order should be "Casteless and Classless."

PART I—PLAN OF WORK

Firka Development is best organized around the following five main centres of work :—

1. Agriculture and Village Industries.
2. Sanitation, Health and Housing.
3. Village Education.
4. Village Organization.
5. Village Culture.

1. Agriculture and Village Industries

Agriculture is the foundation of Village Economy and includes Animal Husbandry. The aim is self-sufficiency in food and clothing as far as possible.

(A) Under Agriculture and Animal Husbandry the following details are emphasised :—

(1) *Balanced cultivation.*—Priority should be given to the growing of food crops keeping in view the fundamental necessity of a balanced diet for the villagers. Further the proper rotation of food crops keeping in mind the balanced fertility of the soil is necessary. Selection of seeds is another important item. In regard to manure, villagers should be taught the use of night soil, farm yard and green manure, village waste, bonemeal and jungle collections.

(2) *Minor Irrigation.*—Wells and tanks next only to rain contribute most to village irrigation. Many of the old tanks are tending to become less useful. A full survey of village tanks and wells should be made and possibilities of adding to them and improving them should be investigated.

(3) *The conservation of the soil.*—The prevention of erosion, the recovery and use of uncultivated lands, afforestation and tree-planting in public land, the utilization and regulation of excess lands not availed of for balanced cultivation for commercial crops and similar other items must be attended to urgently.

(4) *Vegetable gardening.*—Villagers eat more grain food and too little of vegetables and this is one of the chief reasons for mal-nutrition. There will hardly be a village which cannot grow its own vegetables. Vegetable gardening must therefore be systematically organized and even made obligatory. Where families have no land even for Vegetable gardening, small plots should be made available either free or on easy terms. Vegetable Exhibitions should be organized and best growers honoured and given prizes.

(5) *Fruit tree planting.*—Fruit trees suitable to the localities should be extensively planted under a proper plan as private and also as common effort.

(6) *Other items.*—Poultry farming, Bee-keeping, Sheep rearing, Fish growing, Sericulture, etc., are other important items.

(7) *Animal husbandry.*—This is a major item closely associated with agriculture, since the whole of our village economy is more or less bullock and cow centred. Attention should therefore be given to the development of cattle of good working capacity and good milk-strain through proper breeding. The milk goat should not be neglected as it is the poor man's cow.

(8) *Village dairies.*—Village milk production is in a chaotic state and benefits no one less than the villagers. It is a prolific source of exploitation by the city men. The organization of Village Dairies on a co-operative basis is a crying need.

(9) *Ailments of cattle.*—The common ailments of village cattle and cheap and simple remedies for the same should be taught in the villages. There is already a fund of knowledge available in the village on this subject. It has to be added to and made more scientific.

(10) *Common pasture land.*—In olden days Common Pasture lands in the villages was part of village economy. Such pasture lands have nowadays largely disappeared. This is fatal and should be remedied, if necessary by framing new rules and regulations by Government.

(B) *Village Industries.*—Under Village Industries will come the following numerous items, not necessarily in their order of importance, since that will vary from firka to firka and even from village to village :—

(1) *Food processing.*—All food processing such as, flour grinding, paddy husking, oil pressing, gur making should be emphasized.

(2) *Khadi production.*—The whole process of Khadi production from cotton to cloth including tailoring comes under this item. Production of woolen goods also should be organized wherever possible.

(3) *Village pottery.*—The Village potter like the village handloom weaver has withstood much competition and survived. But his methods and technique should be improved.

(4) *Handloom weaving.*—The Village Handloom weaver is one of our best craftsmen. While the ultimate aim is to convert every handloom into a khadiloom, even those who now use mill yarn should be organized on a co-operative basis.

(5) *Mat and basket making.*—This is one of the industries requiring the cheapest raw materials available almost everywhere and should be taken up more extensively than now.

(6) Bell metal work.

(7) Toy making.

(8) Tool and equipment making for village schools and village industries.

(9) Soap making.

(10) Paper making.

(11) Tanning and making of leather goods.

(12) Making of oil lamps.

(13) Improved carpentry.

(14) Improved blacksmithy.

2. Sanitation, Health and Housing

Gandhiji has insisted that sanitation is the first step in village work. Many of the diseases, which have tended to depopulate our villages arise from insanitary conditions of life.

The following items have to be emphasized :—

Sanitation—(1) *Personal habits of cleanliness.*—Villagers have generally a fairly high sense of personal cleanliness derived through tradition and habit. Unfortunately some of these good habits are being given up under a false sense of modernity. Therefore the value of all good old personal habits of cleanliness should be re-emphasized and where necessary new good habits inculcated.

(2) *Collective or group cleanliness.*—This is the weakest link in our village life. Village paths, roads, public places and tank bunds have all become so many public latrines. Villagers answer the calls of nature anywhere indiscriminately polluting most of the places on which people walk about and even the available drinking water. But the fault is not the villagers' wholly. There are no common latrines or urinals in a village and houses are so crowded and small that each house has no such facilities. Therefore the construction and proper maintenance of latrines, urinals and bathing places on a common basis becomes very necessary, as also a plan to convert all rubbish and night soil, etc., into manure. Such a programme is necessary from the point of view of Sanitation and of Village Economy. The following details of Group Cleanliness are indicated :—

(*a*) Suitable and cheap drainage, even if only open ones and their periodical cleaning and disinfecting.

(*b*) Use of drainage water for kitchen gardens and fruit trees.

(*c*) Collection of all rubbish and waste and its conversion into manure.

(*d*) Keeping village wells, paths, tanks and open places clean and uncontaminated.

(*e*) The making and maintaining of small gardens for the village public, childrens' playgrounds, etc.

Health—(1) *Village dietetics.*—Mal-nutrition is rampant in the villages. Villagers must be taught the nutritive values of different articles of food which are or can be produced in the villages. Every family should understand the meaning of a balanced diet and how best to get it under village conditions.

The Health Department should take up educative work in this line in all the firkas seriously. The Government should prohibit rice mills within the firkas to begin with and help to organize hand-pounding of rice.

(2) *Drinking water.*—Supply of clean drinking water is a fundamental item. Many more wells are required in the villages. Many old ones have to be repaired. In some cases clean and protected tanks will have to be made sources of drinking water. This is one of the items which should secure immediate priority.

(3) *Preventive measures.*—Preventive measures against diseases should be emphasized more than curative measures. This means emphasis on balanced diet, personal and collective sanitation and general healthy living with provision for recreations and exercises.

(4) *Ordinary ailments and cheap remedies.*—Common village ailments and their prevention and cure should be taught. Natural methods and cheap remedies with suitable village herbs and drugs should be emphasized. Every family should be supplied with and taught the use of cheap disinfectants. The Health Department should investigate the value of locally available poisonous herbs, weeds, etc., in this connexion.

(5) *Recreation and exercises.*—Provision of space and equipment for open air recreations and exercises should be made in every village. Exercises like Suryanamaskar, Asanas and collective village games should be encouraged and organized.

Housing.—Better and healthier housing is an important item. Village houses are insanitary, over-crowded and built without any common plan. This has to be altered under a well-conceived plan which will be drawn up by the village panchayat sitting down with such Public Health and Public Works authorities as are available near at hand. The following points have to be emphasized :—

(1) Relieving congestion of village houses by providing extension sites for buildings under a plan.

(2) Future house building to be on a co-operative basis.

(3) Improvement of existing houses through Educative Propaganda.

(4) Provision of some kind of drainage for individual houses and for the streets. The first is obtained by digging and maintaining soak pits which will be periodically cleaned and changed. The second is done through a simple and cheap drainage system, even if open, which will be periodically cleaned and disinfected. Normally drainage water should be used for vegetable garden and fruit trees.

(5) Village houses being small and over-crowded common latrines, bathing and washing places should be provided.

(6) Immediate levelling up of all stagnant water pools and pits which become sources of Malarial infection.

(7) Laying out and improvement of village paths and roads on planned basis is not to be delayed.

(8) Model houses suited to village conditions should be made and exhibited by Public Health and Public Works Departments.

(9) In select places where old villages cannot be improved in sanitation and health conditions, an attempt should be made in transplanting the village progressively to a new site nearby with free gift of land and small building subsidies on a co-operative basis. (This is being attempted in Sevagram, Wardha.)

(10) In all new enterprises and schemes of house building care should be taken to give the Harijans their full share of concessions and amenities in order to do away with the present segregation of their living quarters from the rest of the village.

3. Village Education

1. *Village schools.*—Under this heading we deal with village schools. In regard to village schools the Government has laid down a policy for the whole Province, i.e., that all Elementary Schools should be converted into Basic Schools as soon as possible. Almost all the schools in the village are Primary and Elementary Schools.

The following proposals are made in regard to Basic education and Adult education :—

(1) *Basic education.*—(*a*) Machinery should be set up to link up the

Basic Education Programme of the Education Department with the programme of Firka Development.

(*b*) A plan should be drawn up under which the first and second grades in all village schools in the selected firkas should become Basic within the next one or two years and remaining grades become Basic within the further three years. Thus within the next five years all Elementary Schools in the selected firkas should become Basic Schools.

(*c*) To achieve the above end, two teachers from each of the existing schools should be trained as Basic teachers within the next one year or two and all the rest within the further three years.

(2) *Adult Education.*—The following are our suggestions for Adult Education :—

(i) One duly qualified worker from each of the selected firkas should be trained for six months at least in Adult Education work as conceived by the Hindustani Talimi Sangh. The training should be under the direction of the Hindustani Talimi Sangh. The qualification for those selected for training should be not so much a University Degree as love of the village people, experience in one or more items of constructive work including knowledge of some village handicraft, organising capacity, capacity to persevere in day-to-day practical work and general knowledge of village facts and conditions. Thirty-four Adult Education workers will thus be trained, one for each firka, for six months under the direction of the Hindustani Talimi Sangh at some suitable rural centre in the South where there is already a sound tradition of village work.

(ii) Each one of the trained Adult Education worker will at the end of six months start an actual centre of Adult Education in his firka at which he will train a small number of local workers in the technique of Adult Education.

(iii) As more and more trained Adult Education workers become available we should multiply such Adult Education centres so that finally we have a net work of them throughout the firka.

(iv) All Adult Education centres will become active centres of Firka Development. They should be provided with craft and educational equipment, a small village museum, library with reading room attached, a workshop, a radio set, a magic lantern set, etc.

4. Village Organization

Village organisation will come under three institutions : (1) a Village Panchayat for Village Administration on the basis of Village Self-Government, (2) Multipurpose Co-operative Society for the economic organisation of the village and (3) A Grama Seva Sangham to mobilise non-official support and initiative to back up the work of the whole scheme of Firka Development, on the basis of voluntary effort.

(1) *Village Panchayat.*—There will have to be a Village Panchayat for each village selected on Adult franchise, the village being divided into wards for convenient sections for the purpose.

The Panchayat will have direct responsibility in regard to all Village Services, such as, Village Roads, Village Water-Supply, Village Education, Village Dispensaries, Village Sanitation, Administration of justice within certain limits, Village lighting, etc. These services will have to be compulsorily provided for in every village. If the revenue raised and allotted is not sufficient to provide for these services the deficit should be borne by Government.

There will be another set of services, like, libraries, village halls, exhibitions, etc., which should be paid for partly by local contributions and partly by Government.

There should be a Panchayat Union for all the Panchayats in the firka. The duty of such a Union will be to link up the various essential services under the Village Panchayats. The Union will thus guide, supervise and co-ordinate the activities of Village Panchayats and audit their accounts. The Firka Union will further undertake secondary or post-basic education and maintain hospitals and maternity homes. An Assistant Engineer attached to the Firka Union will prepare estimates and execute all works.

The Firka Union of Panchayats will consist of representatives from the various Panchayats in the Firka. It will get contributions from the Panchayats and grants from the Government.

The Village Panchayats should be something more than mere administrative agencies. They should help in training villagers generally in civic responsibility giving every adult knowledge of the rights and duties of village citizenship. They should also take up the tasks of internal reforms like the abolition of common vices such as gambling, etc., abolition of superstitions and social evils, like untouchability, etc.

(2) *Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies.*—Just as the Panchayat is the instrument of political and administrative organization, the Multi-purpose Co-operative Society is the instrument for the economic organization of the village. The Multi-purpose Co-operative Society will deal with the following items :—

(i) The obtaining, grading and storage of the food produce of the village.

(ii) The various processing of food articles.

(iii) The balanced distribution of local products and of such imports as are necessary.

(iv) The stocking and supply of the instruments for agricultural operations, village industries, etc.

(v) The stocking and supply of raw materials like cotton, wood, metal, etc., for local industries.

(vi) The marketing of finished products.

(vii) Arranging for the exchange of surplus village produce for necessary materials and goods from outside.

(viii) The organization of important village industries as interrelated co-operative units, so that, as far as possible profits and benefits are equitably shared by the village community as a whole.

(ix) Up-to-date technicians and those with artistic training should be made available to village artisans to help and improve their work. The cost of such instruction and supervision should be borne by the Government.

(x) There should be one fully trained Co-operative Inspector for each firka.

(3) *Grama Seva Sangham.*—It should not be forgotten that the Village Panchayat and the Multi-purpose Co-operative Society will be run only by a few elected people whereas all the adults who have elected them will have only a waiting and watching programme unless they are also harnessed to constructive work under the various headings of village reconstruction. The Grama Seva Sanghams will be non-official voluntary bodies which would organize all such work as will help the Panchayat and the Multi-purpose Co-operative Society

to fulfill their tasks. Firka Development Officers and Village Development Officers and others should help in organizing, strengthening and utilizing the grama seva sanghams, which should be autonomous bodies with their own constitution, rules and funds. Government may give grants to this grama seva sanghams, but without fettering their autonomy. The grama seva sanghams will organize bodies of voluntary workers for village sanitation, for the regulation of village meetings and festivals, for the protection of life and property in the villages and for various service on such occasions as the prevalence of epidemics or floods or similar emergencies. In fact for every full-time paid worker under Government, panchayat or multi-purpose society, there will have to be numerous non-official voluntary servants from the village trained for such work by the grama seva sanghams.

The village panchayats, multi purpose co-operative societies and grama seva sanghams are the three instruments of village organization. The ultimate aim of village organization is village self-sufficiency in food and clothing and in other major needs of village life as far as possible, so that self-reliance and self-dependence become the foundation of village life. And all this to be achieved on democratic and peaceful lines.

5. Village Culture

Village culture is a neglected item in most programmes of village development. But neither village self-Government nor village self-sufficiency will be of real permanence without the solid influence of village culture. India has revealed through centuries a village culture which has fairly stood the test of time. It must be rediscovered, valued and developed. The village woman particularly indicates the inheritance of this culture adding beauty and strength to village life. It has sometimes been said that a village grandmother can put a University Graduate to shame with her practical wisdom and understanding of life and its problems. The following suggestions are made to nourish village culture :—

(1) Study of village traditions and habits, village institutions,

(2) study of folk songs, folk tales and folk art.

(3) recovery and improvement of artistic handicrafts and village art in general.

(4) organization of bhajanas, kirthanas, dramatics, etc., for village education.

(5) organization of village festivals and important religious occasions to strengthen the unity of village life without distinction of caste and community. People belonging to different communities should be encouraged to take part in each others festivals and religious occasions in a spirit of common happiness.

(6) organization of village libraries, village museums and village study circles.

(7) provision for healthy and open air recreations like rural games, folk dances, excursions, etc., and

(8) *Propaganda.*—We are strongly of the opinion that organized educative propaganda must be undertaken as an integral part of the work. The whole work cannot go on efficiently and speedily if we do not continually educate public opinion to appreciate what is being planned and done. We suggest the following ways in this connection :—

(i) a Central Publicity Committee should be set up with not more than five members which should be charged with the task of effectively organizing propaganda,

(ii) simple and easily understood pamphlets and tracts should be prepared on various items of work showing their importance, etc.

(iii) magic lantern lectures, dramas, songs and bhajanas, exhibitions, demonstrations and competitions should be arranged.

(iv) wireless sets should if possible be made available,

(v) occasional tours should be arranged for those who are competent to explain to the firka people the ideas and methods of the Firka Development Programme.

(vi) a small propaganda unit should be set up in each firka consisting of important local people, and

(vii) adequate financial provision should be made for the work of propaganda.

PART II—SCHEME FOR THE TRAINING OF WORKERS

General Remarks

We cannot emphasis, too much the need for giving adequate, efficient and thorough training to all workers on whom will rest the burden of implementing the villages the programmes laid down. The untrained worker will be a menace to the work, and will create confusion where there should be a clear vision, a detailed plan and careful methods of work. We have no hesitation in saying that the whole programme will be defeated and frustrated without trained workers.

Outlines of the training work

The points under this heading are :—

(1) Who are to be trained ?

(2) Who will train those selected ?

(3) Which will be the centres of training ?

(4) What is the period of training and when should training commence ?

(5) What should be the nature of training and who will draw up the syllabus of studies ?

(6) What standards should be set for the trainees ?

We shall now consider the detailed answers to the above questions.

(1) *Who are to be trained ?*—Those to be trained will be primarily the Firka Development Officers and the Village Development Officers. Besides these whole-time paid workers a sufficient number of others with suitable qualifications should also be trained who will be part-time or voluntary workers. From this last group will come those who might be recruited later as Village Development Officers and Village Development Officers will have to be trained separately. All the Firka Development Officers can be trained together whereas the Village Development Officers will have to be divided into a Telugu group in the North and into a Tamil-Malayalam-Kanarese group in the South. A certain number of voluntary workers with due qualifications will have to be trained along with each group at each centre as reserves under each category.

(2) *Who will train those selected ?*—Without a proper training staff we shall only be wasting time, energy and money on the training scheme. The staff will therefore have to be carefully selected. The advice of the All-India Spinners' Association, the All-India Village Industries Association and the Hindustani Talimi Sangh as also of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust may be taken in this connection. Experts from the various Government Departments should also be consulted.

The staff at each training centre will consist of two kinds :—

(i) Resident and permanent staff where necessary.

(ii) Visiting and temporary staff of experts and workers with experience.

The resident and temporary staff for each training centre should consist of at least two members, a superintendent who is an agricultural, craft or co-operative expert and a chief assistant who is alternately an expert in one of these three items. These two will be trained full-time workers.

The visiting and temporary staff will consist of such persons as will teach one or more of the subjects in the syllabus for some days at a stretch. A list of such teachers should be drawn up and each of them assigned his or her subject and time. These will be given travelling expenses, free food while at the training centres and where absolutely necessary a small honorarium.

(3) *Which will be the centres of training?*—We have already stated that the Firka Development Officers and the Village Development Officers will be trained separately. So the centres of training for the Firka Development Officers and Village Development Officers will be in different places.

(4) *Period of training.*—According to Gandhiji, no complete village worker can be trained in less than two years. But the Firka Development work is there, money has been spent on salaries and establishment and so we are compelled to be in a hurry. We therefore suggest the irreducible minimum of six months for training workers. But since even here, we have to face the difficulty that the Firka Development Officers and Village Development Officers cannot be drawn away from their firkas for too long a time, we have suggested that the six months of training may be spread out as explained under the previous heading. Under our scheme, the Firka Development Officers will get the six months training spread over two years in periods of three weeks once in every three months. Similarly the Village Development Officers will get their six months of training also in two years but in two periods of three months each.

(5) *The nature of the training and the syllabus of studies.*—The nature of the training will closely follow the nature of the work as outlined in our general plan. Those trained should be able to fit in the general scheme of work with special knowledge of the important items and a working knowledge of the other items. The trained Firka Development Officers should have a clear idea of the objectives and of the nature of the overall plan and be capable of supervising and guiding the work. The trained Village Development Officers should be capable of the same things in a similar area.

The syllabus of studies should be drawn up under the following major items :—

(i) Clear grasp of the ideals of the new social order which has to be created ; in other words, a clear understanding of the aims and methods of Firka Development as part of National Reconstruction. Every trained worker should be made familiar with the ideology and methodology of the Congress Constructive Programme as outlined by Gandhiji.

(ii) Training in and understanding of Panchayat Organization in Multi-purpose Co-operative Society and in the work of Grama Seva Sangams.

(iii) Village Economics and Village Sociology. Proficiency in at least one village handicraft.

(iv) Village politics and technique of village politics and technique of Village Organization.

(v) Understanding of the village mind and the village outlook. This means the study of village habits and customs, village traditions and village culture.

(vi) Study of the technique of village survey.

(vii) Actual practice of village work for a minimum period of thirty days as a brief apprentice course.

(6) *Standards to be set for the trainees.*—There will be no formal written examinations which are often misleading. The success of each candidate will be judged from his progress from day to day throughout the period of training. The following items are important in judging the success or failure of every candidate :—

(i) Earnestness in application to work.

(ii) Village mindedness.

(iii) Skill in any craft or crafts.

(iv) Organizing ability.

(v) Capacity to persevere in practical work.

(vi) General knowledge.

The teaching staff will judge jointly who is successful from the experience they have of the trainees throughout the period of training.

Supervision and Inspection

Naturally supervision and inspection will be in the hands of the Provincial Firka Development Officer and two Regional Firka Development Officers. They will be the Chief Supervisors and Inspectors. But we feel strongly that competent non-officials should be associated with the supervision and inspection of the whole work. After all, the whole work is in effect non-official work among the bulk of the village people on a self-reliant and self-dependent basis. We therefore suggest the following procedure.

The Provincial Firka Development Officer in consultation with the Regional Firka Development Officers might authorize one or more competent non-officials in each district to supervise and inspect as often as possible and necessary the work in the district. The reports of such supervision and inspection should be sent to the Provincial Firka Development Officer through the Regional Firka Development Officers at least once in two months without fail. Only such people as agree to do this may be authorized to do same. The travelling expenses of such non-official inspectors should be met by the department. Such non-official agent or agents in each district will act as a link between the department and the field workers.

Health conditions in Rampachodavaram taluk

The public health conditions in this Agency area are not in any way worse than can be usually expected during this period of the year.

As regards the six villages in which deaths from starvation are said to have occurred, the population of these villages is about 1,250 and the number of deaths during the nine months of the year was 30. The number of deaths for the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 were 38, 25 and 22 respectively. Malaria and respiratory diseases such as bronchitis, brought on by the recent heavy rains after a prolonged period of comparative drought have contributed chiefly to this mortality. In August and September 1947, there was only one case of death in these villages due to diarrhœa and other diseases connected with malnutrition. From the records maintained at the Taluk Headquarters Hospital at Rampachodavaram, it is observed that the number of patients treated for diarrhœa and other diseases of the digestive system during July, August and September is less in 1947 than in 1946. A marked increase under these heads would have been recorded if starvation conditions were prevalent. There is therefore no reason to believe that diseases connected with malnutrition were prevalent in the area during the months July to September of this year.

Jottings from other Provinces and States

Assam Government's Development plans for tribal areas

The development plan is spread over a period of five years, because of the vast area involved, and while not forgetting nation-building activities must, in view of the nature of the country, begin by concentrating on the improvement of communications in the hills, and the building of quarters for the greatly increased staff which will be required. For the first two years, therefore, the greater part of the funds provided by the Government of India will be utilized for the building of roads in the districts of Balipara, Sadiya and Tirap so that the vast hinterland can be opened up; and for the building of staff quarters at Charduar, Pasighat, Sadiya, Teju and the new headquarters in the hills south of Margherita.

Already work has been begun on these roads and in the building of quarters. In addition to these activities, a teachers' training school is being constructed in Sadiya, and the newly appointed Educational Officer will soon be proceeding there to start work. It is hoped to train some 15 teachers this year, and thereafter to increase the number under training to a figure of 40 to 50 per year. Proposals for the appointment of a properly trained Inspectorate are also in hand, and it is expected that this Inspectorate with the help of the local tribal people will be able to set up a system of good education for them. Agricultural work is being carried on as well, and while attention has been paid to terracing and anti-soil erosion work, much of the work in this first year is of a preparatory nature. Medical work has not been forgotten; already there are doctors working in the hills. A new hospital is to be built at Pasighat which is being designed by an architect from Bombay; and other hospitals are planned. But as in other departments, the work this year consists chiefly of buildings for the staff. There is also the development of the forests, which are potentially a great source of wealth. Working plans will soon be started, and it is hoped that by next year considerable revenue will be forthcoming.

The whole aim of the plan is to bring the hills closer into touch with the rest of the Province and at the same time to endeavour to raise the standard of living in the hills. To the fulfilment of this aim the officers of the plains have been specially enjoined to render sincere service.

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A Bikanir innovation

According to Bikanir Bulletin, the State Government have constituted a rural reconstruction department. Panchayats will be under this department. Every village or group of villages with a population of 500 or more will have separate panchayats.

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Money for Harijan propaganda in Bombay

The Bombay Government have paid an advance grant of Rs. 2,000 to the Maharashtra Provincial Harijan Sevak Sangh, Dhulia, for special propaganda work, etc.

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Scholarships in Bombay

Five scholarships of the value of Rs. 30 per mensem each tenable for six months to be awarded to the Backward Class candidates in Bombay wishing to undergo training in forestry have been instituted from 1947–48.

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Another concession

The existing minimum percentage of marks for candidates from Backward Classes to the posts of primary teachers is 45 per cent. As in a number of districts the number of candidates available for recruitment is falling short of vacancies, Government had already directed the lowering of percentages for advanced and intermediate classes up to 45 per cent. In respect of Backward Class candidates this percentage has now been further lowered to 40 per cent.

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Teaching of Military Science in Patna

The Senate of the University of Patna has appointed a Committee including the Vice-Chancellor to investigate the feasibility of introducing military science and to recommend a scheme for practical training under the University.

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Training for Indian Mercantile Marine

India is to have more ships, and the Government is alive to the no less important task of meeting the consequent increased demand for qualified officers for the Indian Mercantile Marine. It has set up a committee to study and report on the instructional and training facilities at present provided by the Indian Mercantile Marine Training Ship "Dufferin" and to recommend how these facilities might be expanded. At present 50 cadets are admitted to the "Dufferin" every year, and they undergo a three-year course of training.

The committee will also examine the feasibility of opening classes at Indian ports for the provision of higher training in navigation and engineering.

Capt. H. L. Davis, R.I.N. (retired), formerly Nautical Adviser to the Government of India, Mr. M. A. Master and Dr. Sen Gupta, Deputy Educational Adviser to the Government, will comprise the committee. They are expected to submit their report by the end of the year.

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Refresher course in Tuberculosis

With a view to securing the co-operation of general medical practitioners in the fight against tuberculosis, the Tuberculosis Association of India has drawn up, it is understood, a programme of post-graduate refresher course in tuberculosis in the different parts of the country.

The next course of three weeks' duration will be held in Bombay in February 1948. In addition to lectures by well-known tuberculosis workers in Bombay and by the Technical Adviser of the Tuberculosis Association of India and demonstrations at a number of hospitals, the candidates will also visit one or two tuberculosis institutions.

Registered medical practitioners from all over India, men and women, whether in Government service or in private practice, can avail themselves of this opportunity.

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Addicts' gesture to Prohibition

Representatives of the Chamar community have also welcomed the United Provinces Government's Prohibition policy and offered their whole-hearted co-operation in putting an end to the anti-social evil of taking alcoholic drinks and other intoxicants.

Twenty delegates of Chamars from all over the Province recently met in Council House under the presidentship of Shri Bhagat Dayal Das, M.L.A., who

exhorted the representatives to carry out the Government policy as it was specially meant for the benefit of poorer classes.

Inaugurating the Conference the Hon'ble Minister for Excise appealed to the delegates to help the Government in this uplift undertaking aimed at raising the economic and social conditions of the people.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

" This Conference of the Scheduled Caste Chamar representatives resolved that in future neither an individual member nor a Panchayat of the community will be permitted to indulge in alcoholic drinks and other intoxicant drugs. If they do so they will be liable to punishment by Biradari Panchayats."

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Workers' Duty to Nation

The Hon'ble Minister for Labour of the Bombay Government in the course of a broadcast talk observed

" Now is the workers' opportunity to earn the goodwill of the nation by right action. Thus alone can they establish and make good their title to a living wage, better conditions, a secure life and a worthy place in the political, economic and social organization of the country. Let the criterion for everything they do and anything they demand be whether it will raise production, relieve the hardships of the people and help the community to tide over this crisis. To get what we want I may suggest to the workers a few things which they will kindly keep in mind : (1) Choose your leaders wisely. Keep away from those who would try to win the support of workers by making extravagant demands and who are interested more in creating friction and prolonging conflicts than in getting the best terms for labour. (2) Make strong unions with competent union officials. Make it a policy of your union to rule out strikes while a dispute can be settled by arbitration. (3) Make the best use of the facilities provided by Government for the settlement of disputes and the redress of workers' grievances. If there is any delay for serious difficulty bring it to the notice of the authorities concerned. (4) There should be no avoidable absence from work. (5) During the working hours full attention should be given to the job. There should be as few interruptions as possible. (6) It is sin to slow down work. Every worker should turn out as much and as good work as possible. (7) Please see that a Joint Production Committee is set up in your establishment. Do everything possible to make the work of this Committee a success. (8) If there is any waste of material or damage to plant or products it is the nation that suffers. (9) If you have any suggestions which might improve production bring them to the union or the Production Committee.

* * *

Revival of Cottage Industries

Speaking at Lucknow recently, Hon'ble Dr. John Mathai, Minister for Transport of the Government of India, emphasized the necessity for developing cottage industries for a supply of essential goods as it was difficult in the present circumstances to build up large scale industries in this country on account of the scarcity of machinery parts, difficulties of foreign exchange, and non-availability of shipping space. He further said " There is a great deal more in the gospel of khadi and it is by turning to smaller industries that the solution of the economic problems is going to come.

* * *

Co-operation in United Provinces

According to the Annual Report of the Co-operative Societies in United Provinces for 1944-45, there were 64 Central credit, 347 non-credit societies, 17,141 primary agricultural and 1,103 primary non-agricultural societies in that province as against the corresponding figures of 67,327, 16,640 and 1,083 in 1944 and 67,315, 17,145 and 1,012 in 1942–43. In 1944–45 as compared with the previous year there was a net increase of 617 in the number of societies, Rs. 1·41 lakhs in membership and 61·68 lakhs in working capital and Rs. 28·95 lakhs in owned capital. The total working capital of all co-operatives amounted to Rs. 539·59 lakhs, out of which Rs. 387·17 lakhs (i.e., 71 per cent) belonged to credit societies, 146·57 lakhs (i.e., 27 per cent) to purchase and sale and production and sale societies and Rs. 9·85 lakhs (i.e., 2 per cent) to other types of societies. There was demand for a long time for a Provincial Co-operative Bank which was opened in December 10, 1944. It issued 4,000 individual and 8,000 society shares of Rs. 100 each. Its paid-up capital on June 30, 1945 amounted Rs. 8·05 lakhs. During the year the Bank raised Rs. 6·63 lakhs as deposits and Rs. 3·29 lakhs as loans and the total working capital amounted to Rs. 18·51 lakhs. The Bank advanced Rs. 2·10 lakhs to individuals and Rs. 12·92 lakhs to banks and societies.

The total working capital of central credit societies increased from Rs. 130·93 to 136·97 lakhs and the owned capital increased from Rs. 47·16 to 49·08 lakhs. This year there was a slight deterioration in the percentage of overdues to outstandings which was continuously declining for some time past. In 1944–45 it was 16·8 per cent as against 16·1 per cent in 1943–44, 20·9 per cent in 1942–43, 25·2 per cent in 1941–42, 28·3 per cent in 1940–41 and 49·2 per cent in 1935–36. There are 31 seed stores spread over ten districts and 8 central and 159 consumers' stores spread over 34 districts. In 1944–45 there were 5 central and 7 primary better farming societies as against 12 and 50 respectively in 1943-44 ; 1 central and 22 primary cattle-breeding societies as against 2 and 21 in the previous year ; 143 primary irrigation societies as against 146 and 291 primary consolidation of holding societies as compared to 83 in 1943–44. In 1944–45 there were 2,248 agricultural production and sale societies comprising of 164 marketing, 1,129 cane, 882 gur, 21 eggs and poultry, 1 khoya and 1 cotton societies. Their business turnover was Rs. 10·34 crores. These societies have been of immense help to the cultivators. The cane societies supplied 1,057 lakh maunds of cane valued at Rs. 9·25 crores. The non-agricultural production and sale societies included 12 central textiles, 107 primary textiles and 24 industrial primary societies. The societies in addition to helping their members helped the war effort by organizing the supply of goods from small-scale producers. Such war supplies amounted to Rs. 13·10 lakhs in 1944–45 and the total since the beginning amounted to Rs. 76·55 lakhs.

* * *

Land Reclamation Scheme in United Provinces

Under the land reclamation scheme it is proposed to reclaim nearly 40,000 acres of Ganga ' Khadir ' land in the Meerut zone. The new organization to control operations in this connection will be set up at Mowana near Meerut. This land which lies near about Mowana will be connected by a system of roadways passing through Hastinapur. When completed the scheme is expected to augment the production of foodgrains in the U.P.

* * *

Cotton Statistics in Central Provinces

The Provincial Assembly passed last week the Cotton Statistical Bill which authorizes the Government servants to enter the premises and check the

stock held by the cotton textile and ginning factories at the end of the season. The collection of statistics was so far on a voluntary basis and due to the reluctance on the part of agencies, the figures furnished to the Government were generally inaccurate. The textile mills and ginning factories, particularly the latter, are spread over the whole province numbering 10 and over 400 respectively. It is a stupendous task to collect statistics on a voluntary basis all over the Province. The new Bill, it is hoped, will make the cotton statistics of the province more accurate and scientific. The Government have also decided to launch a Rs. 67-crore Development Plan under the Supplementary Budget.

* * *

Agricultural Loans Act in Central Provinces

The Central Provinces Government passed recently the Agricultural Loans Amendment Bill as a part of their scheme to speed up the Grow-More-Food Campaign in the Province. The Bill aims at popularizing the agricultural loans among cultivators by removing certain procedural difficulties. Under the existing rules a cultivator had to hypothecate his land for the loan borrowed. This involved difficulties and delay and discouraged the peasants from availing themselves of the facilities afforded by the Government. During the period of five years (1942–47) the Government advanced only a sum of Rs. 1,04,48,373 to the cultivators; while the annual requirements of the agriculturists are estimated to be roughly Rs. 30 crores. The waiving of the condition of hypothetication will greatly remove the difficulties in the way of the borrower.

* * *

New Irrigation Project in Orissa

The Hirakud Project on the Mahanadi is to be implemented forthwith. The Central Waterways Irrigation Navigation Commission, which made the preliminary investigation of the scheme, will undertake the construction of the Project as agents of the Government of Orissa. The Government of India will grant loans to Orissa Government in order to cover the capital cost of the Project, which is now estimated at Rs. 47·81 crores.

* *

Prohibition Propaganda in Bombay

The Provincial Prohibition Board will hold a competition in short stories, songs and dramas on Prohibition.

The stories, songs and dramas are required to be written in simple language which will appea to the masses and impiess on the readers as to the several dangers consequent on the drink habit. They should be usable for effective propaganda among the masses.

The Education and Propaganda Sub-committee of the Provincial Prohibition Board has also decided to tackle the younger generation through introducing lessons in the Text Books o the Education Department of the Province in all the provincial languages at all stages of education. For his purpose a committee has been appointed.

Madras Government's Intensive Khadi Scheme

A descriptive survey

The Government's Khadi Scheme is, as already made known to the public, an integral part of a long range plan made by the Government to make the villages in this Province self-sufficient economic units. The Scheme consists of two parts—intensive and extensive. The intensive part aims at securing self-sufficiency in cloth in terms of Khadi. The present statement relates to this part of the scheme.

2. The intensive part of the scheme is being worked in seven selected compact areas specified in the statement attached on the direct responsibility of the Government under the instructions and guidance of the All-India Spinners' Association. The areas selected consist of those in which khadi had already made some progress under the All-India Spinners' Association and in which an atmosphere for the development of khadi has already been created.

3. The Scheme was started in the months of January and February of this year when the All-India Spinners' Association transferred to Government its assets and liabilities in the areas. But the actual working of the scheme commenced in the month of February in Tamilnad and Kerala and in March and April in Andhra area.

4. *Personnel in charge of the work.*—The execution of the scheme in the centres is in charge of trained workers lent to Government by the All-India Spinners' Association under the immediate supervision of the respective branch secretaries of the Associations who have kindly agreed to work as Honorary Regional Khadi Officers and have therefore been appointed as such. The workers lent by the All-India Spinners' Association are being paid only the salaries which they were getting under the All-India Spinners' Association and thus the establishment charges represent the barest minimum consistent with efficiency.

5. The plan of operation is briefly given below :—

(*a*) Every family in the Centre is to be induced to equip itself with at least one charka and contribute at least one efficient spinner.

(*b*) The yarn spun in each village should as far as possible be woven into cloth by weavers residing therein, every endeavour being made to increase the weaving capacity of the village.

(*c*) The Government have to arrange for the manufacture of wooden and iron parts for charkas so that they may be available at cost price to the persons in the Centre requiring them.

(*d*) Government have also to arrange to store and to supply cotton at cost price to persons who cannot grow their own cotton.

(*e*) Hand-ginning is to be encouraged.

(*f*) The spinners are to be encouraged to get the yarn spun by them woven into cloth for the consumption of the family, an inducement being given to them by Government in the shape of a small subsidy ranging from 6 pies to 9 pies per hank of yarn used in the cloth.

(*g*) All surplus yarn not utilized for the spinners' families are to be purchased by Government, got woven into cloth and made available to persons residing in the centre at a price representing the cost of production plus 3·2/3 per cent thereon representing overheads.

(*h*) Arrangements have been made by Government for giving training to workers at Government expense in three different special courses, namely, special accelerated course for three months in spinning, Khadi Pravesika course(one year course for khadi craft

and science) and Bunayee Kanjakartha course (special weaving course for one year) the students being eligible for the grant of a stipend of Rs. 30 each every month,

(i) Supply of mill cloth and handloom cloth made of mill yarn to the residents in the area is to be gradually curtailed, and

(j) Supply of mill yarn to handloom weavers in the areas is also to be curtailed gradually so as to release the looms for khadi weaving in accordance with the progress achieved in the production of yarn.

6. The following details indicate the action taken up to 30th September 1947 to implement the plan detailed above :—

Items.	Amount invested by Government.
	RS.
1 Implements	18,213
2 Cotton	1,53,860
3 Yarn purchased	4,07,996
4 Ginning, carding and silvering charges paid ..	8,104
5 Weaving charges paid ..	1,64,323
6 Bleaching, dyeing and printing charges ..	15,230
7 Establishment and contingencies	52,000
8 Subsidy paid to self-spinners	34,000

The quantity of cloth got produced during the period is 4·5 lakhs yards.

7. It must be admitted that the progress achieved has fallen short of that expected when the scheme was formulated. The progress of the scheme has been retarded on account of various causes. The following are some of them :—

(1) The working of the scheme was started much later than was originally planned and we are still in the initial stages.

(2) Uncertified khadi merchants have till recently competed with the Government and purchased large quantities of the yarn produced in the centres paying rates higher than those fixed by Government.

(3) Communist organizations have been interfering with the khadi weavers inciting them to clamour for higher wages dissuade the weavers from weaving hand-spun yarn.

(4) Absence of enthusiasm on the part of the Centre and Village Khadi Committees, is also responsible for the slow progress.

8. The Government have taken steps to overcome these obstacles. They have passed the Madras (Khadi) Control Order, 1947 by which every khadi producer and dealer is required to take out a licence for doing business in khadi on pain of prosecution. Uncertified khadi producers and dealers have been refused licences to do business in khadi in the following areas :—

(1) All Intensive Khadi Centres.

(2) Named villages in a belt or about 10 miles around each centre.

(3) The All-India Spinners' Association areas of Kanagala in Guntur district and Tiruppur in Coimbatore district.

In order to minimise the hardship that might be caused to persons who have already been doing business in khadi in these areas, the Government agreed to permit them to do business anywhere outside the prohibited areas. The Government have also arranged for the supply of mill yarn to khadi weavers thrown out of employment by the elimination of the uncertified merchants from the areas specified. This supply of mill yarn will be made only till the Government or the All-India Spinners' Association are in a position to supply hand-spun yarn to these weavers.

In order to achieve the object of self-sufficiency in regard to cloth in terms of khadi the Government have also banned the export of khadi outside the province and this step will more or less compel the khadi producers to concentrate on the production of those varieties which will find a rea market in this province.

9. In this connexion it is necessary to clear certain misapprehensions in the minds of the public in regard to the Government's Khadi scheme. Critics of the scheme have pointed out—

(1) that hand spinning and khadi are uneconomical avocations ;

(2) that the development of the textile mill industry in the country will be retarded driving us to dependence on foreign cloth ; and

(3) that the scheme is a costly venture.

These critics, it should be pointed out, have not correctly grasped the principles underlying the scheme. Under the scheme, hand-spinning is to be developed only as an extra avocation. It is not proposed to make all people professional spinners nor is khadi to be produced on a commercial scale. What is aimed at is self-sufficiency in cloth in terms of khadi for the family. The question of cost does not enter into the picture at all as the spinner is asked to produce his or her yarn during his or her leisure hours as a side occupation. The scheme aims at decentralization of the two vital industries, spinning and weaving, as a sound economical proposition for the family as a whole. If these factors are understood it will be realised that the Government's Khadi scheme is a step in the right direction. Of course the success of the scheme depends on the hearty co-operation with the Government of the spinners, weavers and all others concerned.

Intensive Khadi scheme—Statistics regarding the seven Intensive Khadi Centres.

Serial number and name of the centre.	Number of villages included in the centre.	Number of families or houses in the centre.	Population.			Estimated number of charkas existing in the centre.	Number of charkas working for the centre and for self-spinners.
			Adults.	Children.	Total.		
1 Vellakkovil ..	21	21,245	58,845	29,422	88,267	17,963	5,282
2 Avanashi ..	25	15,169	50,532	25,265	75,797	8,727	4,939
3 Puliyankurichi.	41	11,314	38,289	16,045	54,334	1,691	1,691
4 Kotauratla ..	31	10,004	34,454	13,406	47,860	7,925	3,058
5 Guruvareddipalem.	21	8,451	29,862	9,199	39,061	4,794	2,005
6 Erragondapalem.	19	6,658	22,892	9,832	32,724	4,995	3,591
7 Payyanur ..	13	14,867	55,026	27,513	82,539	1,050	880
Total ..	173	87,708	289,900	130,682	420,582	47,145	21,446

Facts and Figures about Coconut Production

NOTE.—*At a time when an all-out drive to step up production both in the sphere of agriculture and industry is in full swing, the following extract from the bulletin of the Madras Indian Coconut Committee may be of interest.*]

It may generally be stated that the statistics of coconut acreage in India are of doubtful accuracy. They began to be published in the Agricultural Statistics of India only from 1920–21 and relate mainly to Madras, Bengal, Bombay and Orissa and Travancore, Cochin, Mysore and Pudukotta. The 1,188,098 acres of coconut in India in 1920–21 increased to 1,293,924 acres in 1925–26, to 1,384,487 acres in 1930–31 and to 1,466,411 acres in 1935–36. The gradual and steady increase continued up to 1940–41 but decreased in the following year when the acreage was reported at 1,445,823 acres.

About 84 per cent of the area under coconut in the Madras Presidency is concentrated in the districts of Malabar, South Kanara, East Godavari and Tanjore, Malabar alone accounting for about 60 per cent. Although coconut is grown throughout Travancore the bulk of the area is situated in the lowland and midland regions of the State. In Cochin State the typical coconut area is found in the narrow strip of sandy tract near the sea, interspersed with numerous canals, backwaters and lagoons, although it has spread out fairly well to other regions also. In Mysore State the districts of Tumkur, Hassan and Mysore together account for more than three-fourths of the area under coconut. In Orissa, coconuts are grown chiefly in the districts of Puri and Cuttack and in Bombay in the districts of Ratnagiri and North Kanara.

The number of coconut trees in an acre varies considerably. The average number of trees per acre in the Madras Presidency is 80 with about 75 in Malabar and South Kanara districts, 55 in East Godavari and 150 in Tanjore. In Travancore, Cochin, Mysore, Orissa, Bombay and Bengal the average number of trees per acre is of the order of 70, 75, 47, 65, 105 and 50 respectively. The yield per tree also varies from garden to garden and area to area, the average for Madras, Travancore, Cochin, Mysore, Bombay and Bengal being 28, 30, 30, 50, 24 and 30 nuts respectively. The annual average production of coconut is estimated at about 3,355 million nuts. About 46 per cent of these are used in the preparation of copra. Of the copra produced, about 79 per cent is consumed in the mills. It is estimated that in 1945-46 about 176,000 tons of copra were used in the country in the preparation of coconut oil. The annual consumption of coconut oil in India is estimated at 158,000 tons which are made up as follows:—

176,000 tons Indian copra yield—
108,000 tons of coconut oil.
75,000 tons of Ceylon copra yield—
50,000 tons of coconut oil.

158,000 tons of coconut oil.

(The reported possibility of imports of copra and coconut oil from other foreign countries has not been taken into account as they have not yet materialised.)

The coconut oil available in the country is distributed as follows:—

	TONS.
Soap Industry	36,000
Toilet and toilet articles ..	47,000
Edible purposes	70,000
Other uses	5,000
Total ..	158,000

The oil available falls short of Indian requirements and the consumption may be stepped up further if larger quantities could be had. The consumption of coconut oil in the next five years may well increase as a result of the possibility of wider expansion on the part of the soap manufacturing and other related industries. The requirements of coconut oil in the country during the next five years may be estimated as follows:—

	TONS OF OIL.
Soap industry	60,000
Toilet and domestic uses ..	60,000
Edible purposes	80,000
Other uses	10,000
Total ..	210,000

The annual production of oil from Indian copra is of the order of 108,000 tons.

There is, therefore, a deficit of 102,000 tons between our demand for coconut oil and its production from Indian copra. This deficit can only be made up by extending our production or by larger imports.

With proper organisation, planning and research it is possible to increase our coconut production by at least 50 per cent and that should be sufficient to wipe out the deficit. An all-out effort to increase production by manuring and inter-cultivation seems to be called for not only because of our deficit but also of the considerable short supplies of oils and fats in the world. This is the problem of problems that confronts the industry and urgent steps need to be taken to tackle it so that the industry may be able not only to stand on its own legs but also be free from the nightmare of foreign competition.

(*Continued from page 6*)

Other decisions taken by the Executive Committee include the following:—

1. The acceptance of the offer of the Poorman Depots at Tirumangalam and Usilampatti to hand over their funds of Rs. 18,824-3-2 and Rs. 7,000 respectively to the Welfare Fund for the construction of a Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital at Tirumangalam and a Maternity Ward to be attached to the Government Hospital at Usilampatti.

2. The purchase of two motor vans with necessary Medical and Health Propaganda Equipment at an estimated cost of Rs. 25,000 for use in the rural areas of Madura district provided the Madura District Committee of the Fund will be financially responsible for their upkeep and maintenance.

3. It is proposed to spend a sum of Rs. 10,000 for the construction of a Residential Hostel for Pupil Midwives at Madura.

4. Another sum of Rs. 10,000 will be spent for the construction of Medical Quarters at Gandhigram, Madura district.

5. The construction of a Dispensary for Women and Children at Pernambut has also been decided upon at an estimated cost of Rs. 65,000. The cost of the whole building will be borne by a private donor and the non-recurring and recurring charges by the District Board, North Arcot.

The creation of an X ray equipment at Cuddalore General Hospital at a cost of Rs. 40,000 has also been sanctioned. Also improvements and alterations to the Government Headquarters Hospital at Salem at an estimated cost of Rs. 52,000 and for the construction of two Orthopaedic Wards for men and women at Salem at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,000.

Financing of Agriculture

Outlines of the Bombay Report

The Government of India had appointed a sub-committee under the chairmanship of Prof. D. R. Gadgil, Director of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, to report on the ways in which rural indebtedness could be reduced and both short-term and long-term finance provided, under efficient control, for agriculture and animal husbandry operations.

Co-operative Banks' approach

The Gadgil Committee suggested the establishment of an autonomous public corporation established by the State but operating on an independent basis. The Co-operative department of the Bombay Government referred this suggestion to the Bombay Co-operative Banks' Association. On the Association expressing the view that the co-operative banks of the Province would be able to meet the requirements of creditworthy agricultural borrowers, the Government appointed a committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Manilal B. Nanavati, to investigate all possibilities and recommend organization and machinery for providing agricultural credit on the lines envisaged by the Gadgil Committee.

The Nanavati Committee has surveyed the present position of the co-operative credit movement and examined whether that movement would be able to carry out the functions of the agricultural credit corporation. The report also states the nature and extent of the problem, the general lines of reorganization of the rural credit structure, the special arrangements necessary for co-operatively undeveloped areas and the lines of State help that is considered essential under local conditions.

Corporation unnecessary

After reviewing the working of the co-operative movement in the Province, the Nanavati Committee has come to the conclusion that there is no need for the setting up of an agricultural credit corporation and that, if the co-operative movement were suitably reorganized, it could fulfil the functions of providing finance to a fairly large number of creditworthy cultivators at reasonably low rates of interest. The movement, in fact, has ample funds at its disposal which, in the absence of fuller employment, are finding a partial outlet through non-co-operative channels. Even if the corporation were established as a supplementary agency, it would be unable to achieve even a portion of the results that stand to the credit of the co-operative organizations. The co-operative movement, during its forty years' experience and financial strength, has been found to cover only a small fraction of the agricultural population which should point to the difficulties of the problem and local situation.

The Nanavati Committee has, therefore, suggested the alternative of making full use of the existing co-operative organizations. Their structure should be so developed and consolidated as to enable them to absorb most of the creditworthy agriculturists. The co-operative character of the organizations has to be retained. It should be possible for the existing primary societies to serve the needs of agricultural credit through absorbing as many members as possible, consistently, of course, with safety and provide them with loans at the rate of 6¼ per cent interest as recommended by the Gadgil Committee.

Credit associations

The Nanavati Committee has stated that the co-operative societies have been mainly concerned with credit, although non-credit activities are being slowly undertaken. These should be increased by credit societies turning themselves into multi-purpose ones and building up their non-credit activities and at the same time avoiding trading risks. Such activities can cover an extensive field of the social, cultural and economic life of the village and town and can be undertaken under the inspiration and guidance of well-trained staff and local leaders. The Committee has suggested that the supervisory staff for this purpose should be paid and maintained by the Government and should work under the joint control of the superior staff of the Co-operative department and central banks.

The primary credit co-operative societies are not in a position to meet the requirements of bigger agriculturists. So, the formation of credit associations on a limited liability basis for a taluka or group of villages has been suggested. With this expansion, the co-operative movement can be built up to serve 30 per cent of the rural population in two five-year periods as envisaged by the Saraiya Committee. But a note of warning has been sounded that the programme of expansion should proceed in an orderly and efficient manner and that the activities should not overgrow the capacity of the organizational and managerial staff promoting them.

Rural credit net-work

After reviewing the working of the central financing agencies in the Province the Committee has indicated the lines on which they should function under the new set-up envisaged for organization of rural credit agencies. The Committee has found the district central banks generally sound. But it has detected certain unhealthy tendencies, such as those underlying the occasional apathy of some of these institutions towards the needs of the village primaries. The Committee also found these institutions transacting business with individual borrowers which is extensive.

The Committee has, therefore, suggested that, since the central banks are service institutions and their main function is to foster the growth and development of the primary societies, these tendencies should be checked. The Committee wants the central banks to restrict their transactions with individual borrowers within suitable limits. Similarly, they should be in a position to reduce their lending rates to 4 per cent of interests. Any central bank which cannot do this cannot be considered as efficient and its working should be examined by the Provincial bank or the Co-operative department.

Interest on rural credit

The Committee has examined in detail the incidence of high rate of interest prevailing in the co-operative movement and has made detailed suggestions with a view to bringing down the prevailing high rates of interest to 6¼ per cent to the ultimate borrower as recommended by the Gadgil Committee.

The Committee, after examination of the Gadgil Committee's recommendation of the agricultural credit corporation disbursing both short-term and long-term credit, has found the recommendation unsuitable under local conditions. It has, therefore, recommended that the Provincial Land Mortgage Bank should not be merged with the Provincial Co-operative Bank.

While these two organisations should continue to work separately, the district central banks should take over such of the primary land mortgage banks as are found to work at a loss and run a special department for the purpose and obtain necessary funds from the Provincial Land Mortgage Bank.

The Committee has, however, found that the Gadgil Committee's recommendation regarding the rate of interest cannot be implemented without the support of Government subsidies and, therefore, it has left it to the Government to consider whether or not a higher rate, i.e. up to, 5 or 5½ per cent should be charged, except for loans for special purposes. In adopting this course, the Committee has been guided by the consideration that the entire rural credit organization has to be made ultimately self-supporting and the Co-operative Movement strong and independent.

The Committee has also suggested that heavy subsidies by the Government for maintaining low rates of interest should not be allowed to come in the way of the Government assistance which other important forms of co-operative activities like agricultural marketing require in the present state of development of the Co-operative Movement.

Grain-cum-Commodity Depot Model

The Committee has stated that co-operative societies are very suitable for developed areas. But the problem in the backward areas should be approached differently with formation of grain-cum-commodity depots as at present run by the Revenue Department. Agricultural banks can grant loans to individuals, societies and co-operative societies. The agricultural banks should be formed in these areas to deal directly with individual khatedars as well as with co-operative societies that might be formed later.

Rural Credit Stabilization Fund

The Nanavati Committee has also suggested that the Government should build up a rural credit stabilization fund by annually contributing, for five years, one per cent of the total outstandings of co-operative societies with a view to meeting losses that might be sustained by co-operative societies owing to unforeseen calamities. The suggestion has also been made of formation of a small rural credit board to watch the working of legislation like the Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act and the Moneylenders' Act as well as the heavy commitments of the Government in rural finance. The board might meet twice a year and generally review the arrangements of rural finance made through co-operative societies and other agencies.

Finally, the Nanavati Committee, in making its recommendations of assistance to the Co-operative Movement, has stressed that such Government assistance should not stultify self-help and discourage mutual help. Although mainly the Co-operative Movement is State sponsored, persistent efforts be made to generate the spirit of real co-operation.

Miscellaneous Items

As a solution for the cloth scarcity Mahatma Gandhi recently observed as follows :—

India had 40 crores of inhabitants. If the Pakistan area was deducted from it, it would still have more than 30 crorers. They had as much cotton growing in the country as they needed. There were enough spinners to turn their cotton into weavable yarn and they had more than the required number of weavers in the country for weaving the handspun yarn. Without an outlay of very large capital they could manufacture in the country all the wheels, handlooms and other accessories without difficulty. All that was needed, therefore, was robust faith in themselves and determination to use nothing but khadi. They had known that it was possible to have as fine khadi as could be desired and to produce patterns superior even to those manufactured by mills.

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Cost of living index

During the week ended 15th November 1947, the index number of cost of living for working classes in Madras City rose by three points from 282 to 285 owing to an increase in the prices of vegetables, meat and sarees.

Railway Traffic Statistics during October 1947

South Indian Railway

During October 1947, there was an extension of 136 train miles per day in the existing train services. The train miles run in the month as compared with October 1946 are as follows :—

Public Train miles.

	October 1946.	October 1947.
Coaching	703, 804	883,430
Goods	266,915	277,844
Total	970,719	1,161,274

Details of traffic both coaching and goods carried during the month of October 1947, as compared with the previous month and corresponding month of last year are given below :—

		October 1946.	October 1947.	September 1947.
Coaching traffic—				
Number of passengers ..	Tons.	9,825,508	12,468,420	12,246,084
Earnings	Rs.	59,89,640	67,55,512	68,64,116
Goods Traffic—				
Weight	Tons.	477,356	539,083	518,884
Earnings	Rs.	51,34,623	49,81,388	49,39,541

The increase in coahing earnings as compared with those of October 1946 is due to the introduction of additional trains and increase in fares whilst the decrease in earnings in comparison with September 1947, even though there is an increase in the number of passengers, is due to increase in short distance traffic. The decrease in goods earnings is due to less movement of grains.

M. & S.M. Railway

During October 1947 the M. & S. M. Railway ran an average of 24,100 coaching train miles daily compared with 23,900 miles in 1946. The increase would have been much more but for the fact the Railway had to lend a large number of passenger vehicles to Northern India and this could only be done by cancelling passenger trains.

The approximate earnings for October 1947 compare as under with those of October 1946—

	October.	
	RS. 1946.	RS. 1947.
Coaching ..	68,30,000	75,83,000
Goods ..	75,88,000	66,82,000
Miscellaneous.	1,06,000	90,000
	1,45,24,000	1,43,55,000

The amount of traffic carried in October 1947 compares as under with October 1946—

	October.	
	1946.	1947.
Number of passengers (All classes).	6,619,000	7,036,000
Number of tons carried (Goods Traffic).	477,000	432,000

Index numbers of import and export prices for the Province of Madras for September 1947.

1. The index number of declared values of foreign imports advanced by 16 points to 311.

2. The index number of declared values of foreign exports advanced by 61 points to 282.

3. The index number of declared values of coastwise imports advanced by 14 points to 324.

4. The index number of declared values of coastwise exports advanced by 33 points to 409.

Cost of Living Index in Muffasal Centres in October 1947

Centre.	*Index.*
Vizagapatam	292·8
Ellore	345·5
Bellary	314·5 (*a*)
Cuddalore	305·5 (*b*)
Trichinopoly	303·7
Madura	295·8
Coimbatore	304·0
Calicut	329·7

(*a*) 314·47 to two decimal places.
(*b*) 305·46 to two decimal places.

Irrigation Schemes for the Province

Government's Development Plans

New Projects for South Arcot and Salem

One of the main planks in the Post-War Reconstruction Programme of the Government is the expansion of Irrigation facilities in the Province. A number of new projects have been set on foot and further efforts are being made to tap fully the water resources of the Province. In this connection the public may be interested to know details of new irrigation projects relating to South Arcot and Salem districts.

Projects have been proposed on the Ponniar river flowing through Salem and South Arcot districts from time to time but they have been given up in the past after a short preliminary examination because of uncertain river flows, and the low percentage of return on irrigation projects on this river. A complete examination of it has recently been made to determine the quantities available for new irrigation schemes in South Arcot and Salem districts after meeting in full the requirements of existing irrigation in South Arcot district and in the French territory below. From the observations of surpluses made at the Cuddalore bridge and from the discharges at Tirukkoilur anicut and at other points, particularly Nedungal anicut in Salem district, it has been found that the general position of projects on this river is somewhat as follows :—

Two Reservoirs

In a period of thirty years there are 10 very good years with a large volume of surplus getting wasted into the seas. In another ten years the surplus is very limited and capable of being used for irrigating limited acres of new irrigation. In ten other years there is very little surplus. In many of these years very little new irrigation will be possible. In some years some of them consecutive, none at all is possible. The conditions in regard to Salem district are far worse than in regard to South Arcot because the river is smaller in Salem district and also flows in a region of smaller rainfall than in South Arcot. Besides, unlike the large rivers, Cauvery, Kistna and the Godavari, the Ponniar drains a dry tract of cultivated land from which the runoff in the shape of floods is poor in years of normal rainfall and is heavy in years of extraordinary or cyclonic rainfall. After a careful examination it has been decided to investigate the proposal for a reservoir at Sathanur in South Arcot district of 4,000 million cubic feet to irrigate about 20,000 acres and a reservoir of 3,000 million cubic feet in Salem district to irrigate about 7,500 acres. The reservoirs in Salem district will be worked on the presumption that they will get a filling only once in two years instead of every year as the flows available in this part of the river are much more fitful and erratic than at the Sathanur site lower down and the supply in these reservoirs should last for two years, evaporation losses above this being made up in the second year. The Salem project is, therefore, likely to be very costly and irrigate a smaller area than the South Arcot project. A preliminary investigation of a reservoir near Krishnagiri, originally called Thomas project, is also necessary before any final opinion can be given as to whether a practicable scheme can be devised.

Minor Schemes

Besides the two large reservoirs mentioned above, proposals for minor schemes in the upper reaches of Ponniar above Badathaloy anicut and also above at Engagollu site are under consideration. These small schemes and also a similar small scheme on the Vaniar have also to be investigated.

For all this investigation a Subdivisional Officer with necessary staff for schemes in Salem district has been asked for, and investigation will be taken up as soon as it is sanctioned. The Sathanur anicut scheme will be investigated by a separate Subdivisional Officer.

The Marandahalli project in Salem district, prepared more than 20 years ago, provided for improvements to the Marandahalli supply channel and for improving the storages of three tanks fed by the supply channel. The recent investigation made into the quantities of supplies available at the site of Marandahalli anicut since the scheme was prepared shows that the surplus is extremely limited and is confined to a few hours during very heavy rains. The scheme as originally prepared will not be helpful in diverting any additional supplies to these system tanks. There are also other snags in the original scheme.

It is also observed that there is a considerable extent of irrigation under this river upstream of the Marandahalli anicut, and as per figures of the irrigable anicut on a river of this size, the limit has practically been reached of the area which can be developed. The surplus available is extremely small and occurs at rare and short intervals which can only be stored in a reservoir right across the river. So a scheme has been suggested to build a reservoir across the Chinnar river upstream of Marandahalli anicut at a suitable point for about 200 million cubic feet to irrigate about 1,000 acres either in the Marandahalli anicut system or elsewhere. The scheme requires field investigation and the staff appointed for the Salem district schemes will have to deal with this scheme also. Apart from this reservoir scheme, some small improvement to the Marandahalli anicut system appear to be desirable. Proposals to raise the storage of Sangam-Basavan tank which is silted up to a large extent and to repair the existing supply channel suitably so as to make the best use of the river flows have been made after a detailed examination of the proposals and an inspection of the site by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. These proposals will be investigated and taken up as soon as the staff becomes available.

Labour Situation in the Province during the Second Fortnight of October 1947

The Sunrise Glass Works, Limited, Tiruvottiyur, was closed from 5th October 1947 as the workers failed to report themselves for work on that day (Sunday) in lieu of the holiday on 2nd October 1947 on account of Gandhiji's Birthday. The factory was re-opened on 16th October 1947.

About 375 workers of Sri Ganeshar Aluminium Factory, Washermanpet, Madras, struck work on 24th October 1947, demanding two days holidays for Ayudha Puja. They resumed work on the morning of 25th October 1947.

The workers of Messrs. C. S. Abdul Majid & Co., Tannery, Vaniyambadi, North Arcot district, who struck work on 24th September 1947, resumed work on 14th October 1947 on the intervention of the Labour Officer, Vellore.

About 1,000 workers of East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories, Limited, Ranipet, struck work on 15th October 1947 as a protest against the dismissal of seven workers who did not come for work on "Mahalaya Amavasai." As the oven has been put out, the management say it would take about two to three months to re-start work in the pottery and chemical sections. Workers in other sections are not prepared to resume work as the Union apprehends a disruption among members if some of the workers are left without work for long period. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the workers to resume work in batches as required by the management and advised the management to take back as many workers as possible immediately and to resume full work as quickly as possible.

The Management of the Kamala Mills, Coimbatore (9,504 spindles), have closed down their mills after notice from 16th October 1947 on the plea that they are working at a loss. The Provincial Textile Commissioner has granted their request to spin higher counts of yarn to enable them to avoid working at a loss.

The management of the Sree Suryanarayana Spinning and Weaving Mills (5,584 spindles), Pandalapaka, East Godavari district have closed down their mills after notice from 16th October 1947 on the plea that they are incurring loss.

The Satyanarayana Spinning Mills (5,504 spindles), Rajahmundry, which was closed on 29th September 1947 for boiler inspection has not yet been re-opened.

The Lock-out in the Lakshmi Saw Mills, Kasargod, declared on 2nd September 1947 was lifted on 21st October 1947 and the workers resumed work.

About 87 workers of Handle Works Department of Messrs. Ebrahim Currim and Sons, Calicut, staged a stay-in-strike from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on 14th October 1947 as a protest against the retrenchment of 42 workers for want of work.

The workers of Kerala Plywoods Limited, Calicut, who struck work on 6th October 1947 resumed work on 27th October 1947.

The Labour Officer, Calicut, has reported that the dispute between the workers and the management of the K.M.S. Bus Service, Palghat, has been settled and that the workers have withdrawn the notice of strike.

The Secretary of the Electrical Labour Union, Nellore, has issued a notice of strike dated 7th October 1947 to the management of the Nellore Power and Light Limited, Nellore, intimating that the workers will go on strike from 7th November 1947 if their demands for reinstatement of the manager of the company, implementation of the terms of agreement in May 1947, etc., are not conceded. The Union has been advised not to resort to strike but to leave the manager to deal with the management direct and to make representations to the management regarding cases of alleged non-implementation of terms of previous agreement, etc., and to withdraw the notice of strike. The Commissioner of Labour proposes to visit Nellore and try to settle the dispute by conciliation.

The management of the Pullicar Mills, Limited, Tiruchengode (6,300 spindles), has issued a notice stating that the Mill will be closed from 1st November 1947 on the ground that they are incurring heavy loss. The management were advised by the Commissioner of Labour not to close the mills but the management have pleaded inability to run the mills without loss at the level of wages paid by the recent award.

(Continued on page 22)

Reports from Districts

Prohibition and Counter Attraction

Reports received from prohibition districts show that more and more attention is being given to the social aspect of prohibition work. Amelioration work is going on apace in all the districts. Rural recreation is also being done on an organized scale. Substitute beverages in the place of toddy or arrack are also being provided. Districtwar particulars may perhaps be of interest to the general public.

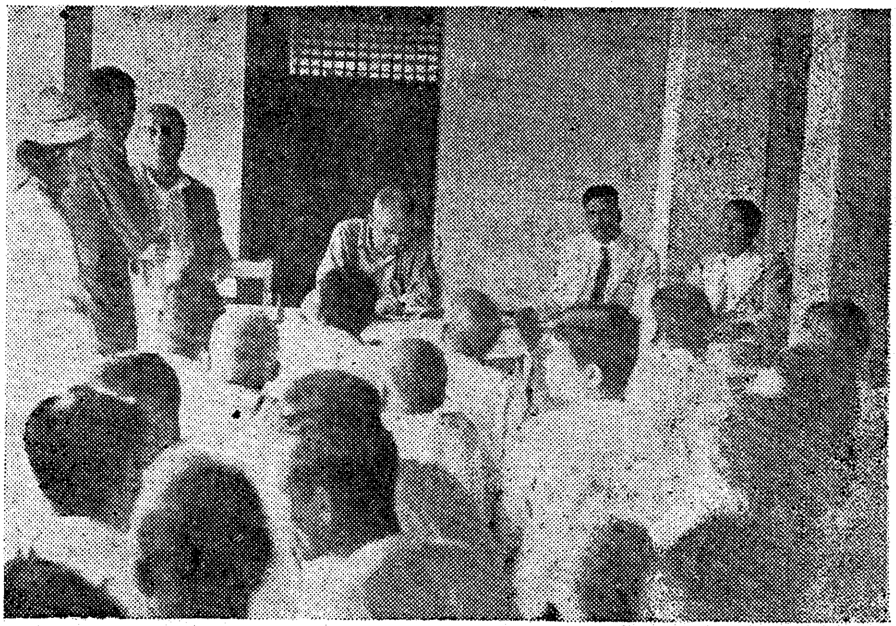
Coimbatore.—Rural sports were held in October. The chief events were chadu-gudu, tug-of-war, Oyilkummi, etc. These sports attracted considerable crowds. Prizes were also given to winners. Gramasanghams continue to function usefully. The Odathur Sangham in Gobichettipalayam division is running a night school. Another sangham has carried out repairs to a water-course to prevent damages by floods. The sangham at Gettisamudram has formed two new roads at a cost of Rs. 1,500. A similar road was constructed by another sangham at a cost of Rs. 500. One of the sanghams has purchased a battery radio set. Two schools were constructed by two sanghams at a cost of Rs. 1,200 and Rs. 2,000, respectively. The Collector also addressed the gramasanghams on rural uplift. A rural exhibition was also held in October in which the nation-building departments, viz., Agricultural, Veterinary and Health participated. Prizes and certificates were awarded in the case of the best exhibits. Inter-village and group tournaments were also held on a big scale. A rural uplift school was inaugurated in Kollegal.

Chittoor.—Similar activities are also reported from Chittoor district. The special features there include the celebration of thrift day at four places. Forty-five hundi boxes were distributed and a sum of Rs. 110-4-0 was collected. Street cleaning drives were organized in some places with processions and bhajanas. Rural games formed a regular feature in some villages. Street dramas were staged in some places in the district. Inter-village tournaments were also held. There was also a rural exhibition and games of school children and kolattam, folk dances, etc.

Kurnool.—Rural games, thrift-day celebration, street cleaning, bhajanas and Harikathas form the main features of the ameliorative activities in this district. It is also reported that the ex-addicts and their families are leading a comfortable life now. They are drawing their full ration and have commenced purchasing all the essentials of life. Their economic condition have improved in general. It is reported that one ex-addict has purchased an ox for Rs. 250 from his new savings. A reading room was opened in one of the villages and public reading of Ramayana has been arranged in another village. Sunday has been set apart for street cleaning drives. Construction of a school and road is also under consideration at the instance of a gramasangham. Four new co-operative societies have also been registered. The villagers in one place have resolved to observe social boycott of those who resort to drink at the shops in the adjoining native State. An ex-addict saved Rs. 100 and purchased five goats while another saved Rs. 120 and purchased a she-buffalo.

Salem.—Steps are being taken for the organization of a jaggery manufcaturing co-operative society. A volley ball court was opned in one village. A drainage covering a length of 2 furlongs was excavated in another. A village road four furlongs in length is under construction. Rural games and sports were organized during the firka tournament and a prohibition drama was enacted. The Weavers' Co-operative Society, Tiruchengode, has done useful work, including the installation of radios, the opening of a library, and the opening of a volley ball court. Adults night schools were opened by villagesanghams in two places. A village road about 2 furlongs in length was constructed. Three drinking-water wells were repaired by the villagers in one firka. The opening of a free reading room and the construction of a road of 150 feet in length were among the other items of work done in the firka. The Collector declared open a free reading room on 10th November 1947.

Bellary.—A firka tournament was held in the district during October. Street dramas were also enacted throughout the district. Bhajanas, kalakshepams and Harikathas were also conducted in several places. Physical exercises were conducted in some places. On the socio-economic side, the Adoni Co-operative Stores has arranged to install a sugarcane crusher at a cost of Rs. 12,000. During the Dasara festival one of the rural uplift sanghams conducted Baratham-kalakshepam. A scheme for starting a mat weaving industry on co-operative



The Commissioner of Prohibition is presiding over a meeting of ex-tappers for organization of Co-operative Palmyra Jaggery Society at Buntwal, South Kanara.

lines in three villages has been prepared. The villagers in one place have collected Rs. 6,000 for providing themselves with water facilities. Steps are also being taken for forming a Milk Supply Union.

Anantapur.—A thrift campaign was launched in October with good results. One reading room and a library for the public were opened at Gooty. Thrift days were celebrated by a number of co-operative societies.

Cuddapah.—It is reported that addicts have generally expressed that they are now able to live decently.

North Arcot district.—There were two taluk tournaments during the first week of November.

Training of Rural Recreation Officers

The training course of the second batch of Rural Recreation Officers commenced at Saidapet on 12th May 1947 and concluded on 11th August 1947. The period of training was three months and during this period every effort was made to equip the candidates as efficiently as possible in order to enable them to do full justice to their responsibilities. The training was elaborate and intensive. The daily programme included physical activities including games, sports, dances, competitions, tournaments, etc., lectures on rural uplift and rural recreation, indoor games, and library study including debate and discussions. Excursions were also arranged on Saturdays. The officers of the various departments including those of Education, Veterinary, Agriculture, Industries, Local Boards, Public Health and Revenue delivered instructive lectures to the candidates.

Coconut and Palmyra jaggery Co-operative Societies in Malabar and South Kanara

Government have recently permitted the tapping of coconut trees for sweet juice for the manufacture of jaggery under co-operative organization as an experimental measure in select areas in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara. In this connection Mr. V. N. Kudva, Commissioner of Land Revenue, Excise and Prohibition accompanied by Rao Sahib A. Palaniappa Mudaliar, Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition (Amelioration), toured South Kanara district. The Deputy Commissioner toured Malabar also. In South Kanara district, they met the representatives of tappers and other non-official gentlemen interested in the welfare of the tapper community and selected the areas suitable for the formation of jaggery manufacturing societies. Ten centres in Hosdrug area and five centres in Coondapur and Udipi area have been selected. Societies have been registered in four of these centres. Societies in the remaining centres will be organized before the end of the month and licences issued to the members for the tapping of sweet juice for the manufacture of jaggery. In Malabar 14 centres between Tellicherry and Cannanore and four centres around Badagara in Kurumbranad taluk have been selected. Of these, societies in four centres were organized and registered during the tour of the Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition. Societies at the remaining centres will be organized before the end of this month.

Exhortation to Tappers

The Government have also permitted the tapping of sweet juice from palmyra trees and societies under this head are also being organized in the two districts. The Commissioner visited several places in South Kanara district in this connection and addressed meetings of ex-tappers. He stressed that Government were not happy about the concession given to tap sweet juice as it might hamper the enforcement of Prohibition. He also referred to the benefits of Prohibition and stressed that Government were not prepared, to take any risk to an extent which may entail failure of prohibition. The Government have therefore restricted the tapping of coconut and palmyra trees for jaggery manufacture to members of co-operative societies, as the societies could be expected to work under proper supervision. No individual would be given permission for the tapping of sweet juice. He warned the tappers that any abuse in the concession would result in its withdrawal. It is proposed to organize about 30 societies for palmyra jaggery manufacture in Mangalore taluk and a few societies in Puttur and Coondapur taluks. Societies in Mangalore taluk were registered during the tour of the Commissioner.

Malabar forges ahead

In Malabar district the organization of societies for palmyra jaggery manufacture to provide work for tappers in Palghat taluk is proceeding apace. Thirty centres have been selected and in 19 places societies have been registered. Licences have been issued to about 900 persons. A few societies are proposed to be organized in Walluvanad taluk. The Deputy Commissioner addressed a meeting of tappers at Chittalancheri in Palghat taluk, where a society had been organized and about 150 members had joined the society. It has been suggested that a Central Organization will be necessary to undertake marketing of jaggery. This question is under consideration.

It is expected that as a result of the concession given by Government to tap sweet juice for coconut and palmyra jaggery manufactute the problem of unemployment among the tappers in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara where it is specially acute would ease to a considerable extent. The tappers are joining the societies enthusiastically.

(*Continued from page 20*)

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Pullicar Mills, Limited, Tiruchengode.

They have referred the dispute between the workers and the managements of beedi factories in Tinnevelly district to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication.

The Labour Officer, Vizagapatam, has reported that about 2,500 workers of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Vizagapatam, who were on strike from 8th July 1947 resumed work on 20th October 1947.

The Government have also passed orders on the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Bezwada, in the dispute between the workers and management of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Vizagapatam.

Books and Periodicals

[PRAVASI—*Monthly journal—Published in Ajmer—Annual subscription Rs.* 10.]

This is a bilingual monthly in English and Hindustani published in Ajmer and is concerned with the cause of Indian overseas, especially those in South Africa. The issue under review contains informative articles on Indians in South Africa. Dr. Lankasundaram also has contributed a general article entitled 'India's forgotten children overseas.'

There is of course more than one journal to expouse the cause of Indian overseas. All the same there is room for more to come in and the latest addition to the rank of this type of journals has to be welcomed. India is now politically independent and it has to be ensured that the status and condition of her people abroad are in keeping with those of an independent country as distinct from a colonial or subject country. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. Newspapers are not only teachers of humanity but also guardians of their freedom and progress in that, they have to be on the alert and call the attention of the leaders of the country when anything goes wrong anywhere. And South Africa needs special vigilance. From this point of view, a journal dealing with Indian overseas, especially those in South Africa, has to be specially welcomed. It is to be hoped that the new journal will have a career of uninterrupted usefulness.

"DAKHINI HIND"

The magazine you require most is out.

1. The "Dakhini Hind" is the first and foremost monthly of its kind. It is published by the Madras Government in India's **lingua franca,** Hindustani;

2. It is the standard-bearer of South Indian culture;

3. It portrays prominently the lives of the great saints and seers, poets and philosophers of the South;

4. It gives glimpses of the centuries-old, wonderful shrines of South India;

5. It dives deep into the ancient lore and literature of the Dravidian languages and South Indian art and architecture;

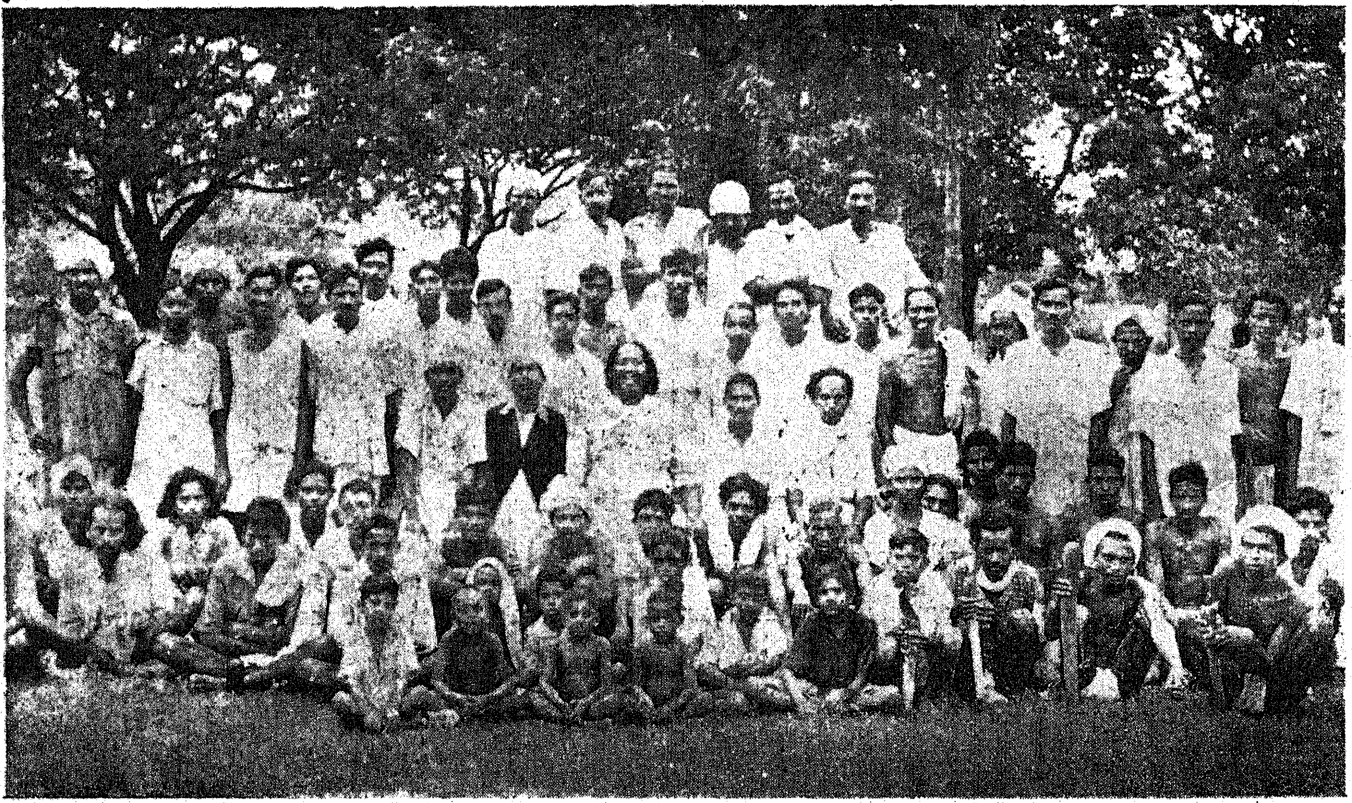
6. It provides a vivid idea of the customs and ceremonies of the South;

7. It acquaints you with the all-round activities, welfare measures and policies of the Madras Government;

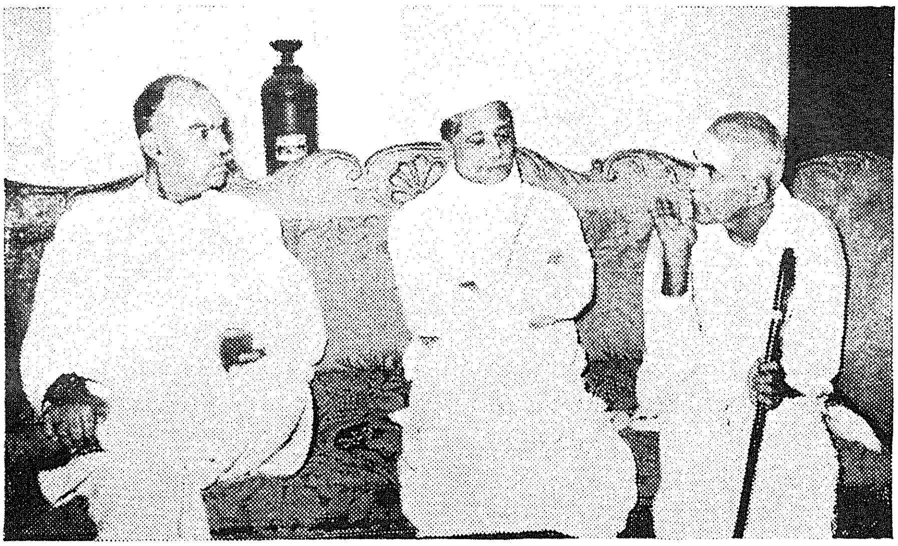
8. It improves your knowledge of Hindustani;

9. It aspires to construct a cultural bridge between the South and the North.

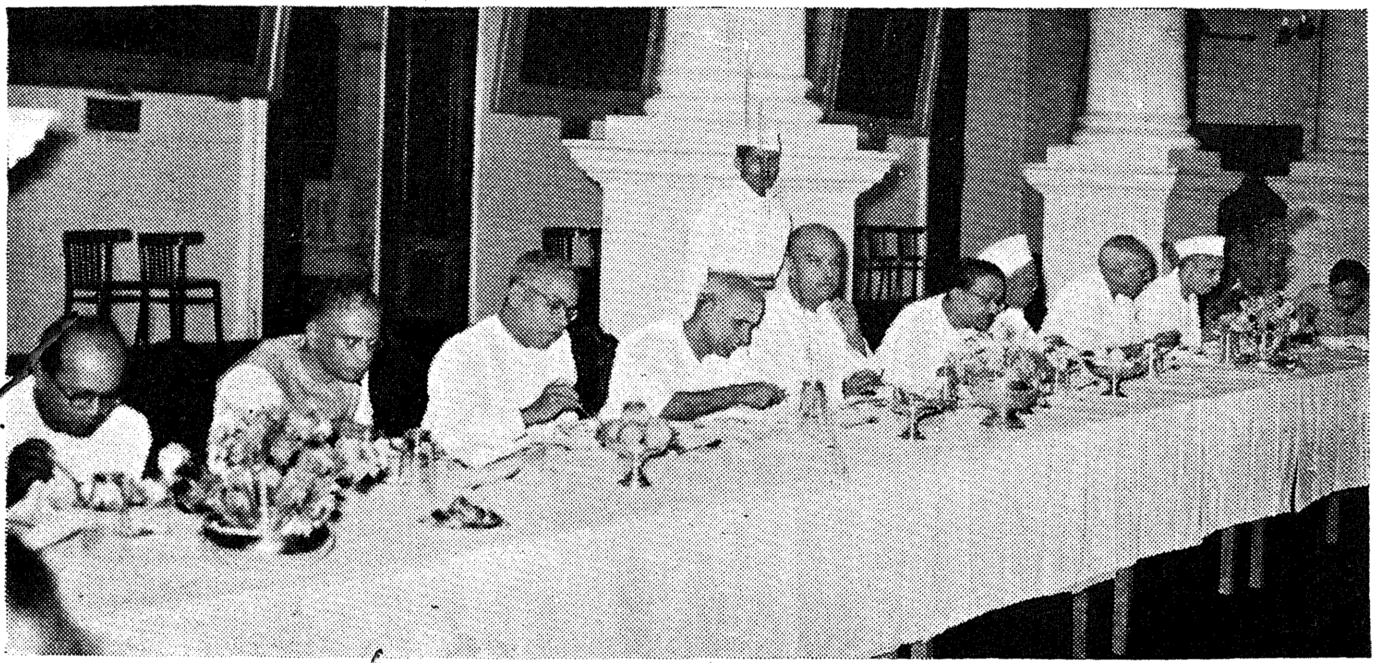
A picture from Rampachodavaram area which has been of late much in the news



The picture does not support the theory of starvation deaths. *Please see further details on page 11*



The Hon'ble S. P. Mookerji, Minister for Industries of the Government of India is seen chatting with the Hon'ble the Premier of Madras and the President of the Madras Legislative Council.



The Hon'ble Minister for Industries of the Government of India Mr. S. P. Mookerji was entertained at a dinner party during the recent visit to Madras. The guest is fifth from the left.

Members of the Indian Women's Civic Corps presenting clothes, etc., to the South Indian refugees from Karachi.

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